



CRS

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2015







ANNUAL REPORT

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Mary B. Mazanec
Director

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Mary B. Mazanec, *Director*

From international conflicts and humanitarian crises, to immigration, transportation, and secondary education, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) helped every congressional office and committee navigate the wide range of complex and controversial issues that confronted Congress in FY2015.

We kicked off the year strongly, preparing for the newly elected Members of the 114th Congress with the tenth biannual CRS Seminar for New Members, and wrapped up 2015 supporting the transition to a new Speaker and the crafting of the omnibus appropriations bill. In between, CRS experts answered over 62,000 individual requests; hosted over 7,400 Congressional participants at seminars, briefings and trainings; provided over 3,600 new or refreshed products; and summarized over 8,000 pieces of legislation.

While the CRS mission remains the same, Congress and the environment in which it works are continually evolving. To ensure that the Service is well positioned to anticipate and meet the information and research needs of a 21st-century Congress, we launched a comprehensive strategic planning effort that has identified the most

critical priorities, goals, and objectives that will enable us to most efficiently and effectively serve Congress as CRS moves into its second century.

Responding to the increasingly rapid pace of congressional business, and taking advantage of new technologies, we continued to explore new and innovative ways to deliver authoritative information and timely analysis to Congress. For example, we introduced shorter report formats and added infographics to our website CRS.gov to better serve congressional needs.

It is an honor and privilege to work for the U.S. Congress. With great dedication, our staff creatively supports Members, staff and committees as they help shape and direct the legislative process and our nation's future. Our accomplishments in fiscal 2015 reflect that dedication.



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I. CRS SERVICE TO CONGRESS

The Congressional Research Service works exclusively and directly for all Members and Committees of Congress in support of their legislative, oversight, and representative functions. The Service is committed to providing Congress research, analysis, and informational support of the highest quality in forms that are the most useful and appropriate. Principles guiding the work of the Service, in accordance with its charter, are encompassed in the CRS mission:

CRS serves Congress throughout the legislative process by providing comprehensive and reliable legislative research and analysis that are timely, objective, authoritative, and confidential, thereby contributing to an informed national legislature.

Through the years CRS has improved its research and information assistance, enhanced timely delivery, convenience, and accessibility. It has created new products and services and drawn upon improved technology in information processing and transmission. The Service has become increasingly responsive to the changing demands on Members' time and has sought to establish better ways to provide needed analysis and information. Efficiency of service has become even more important in times of marked fiscal constraint.

In FY2015 the Service offered Congress multifaceted, in-depth support across a wide spectrum of complex and diverse problems as Members work to address these concerns and to develop effective policy tools to deal with them. Ongoing violent conflicts abroad, political upheavals, power disputes, nuclear proliferation pressures, and major refugee and humanitarian dilemmas were among the foreign policy issues confronting lawmakers in the past fiscal year. Domestic policy challenges included reform of the Department of Defense, immigration, surface transportation, the expiring provisions of Medicaid, reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and issues associated with same-sex marriage. Consistent with its broad congressional mandate, CRS provided a wide variety of products and services to meet the needs of Congress as it faced these and other policy challenges of the nation.

INDICATORS OF CRS PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY

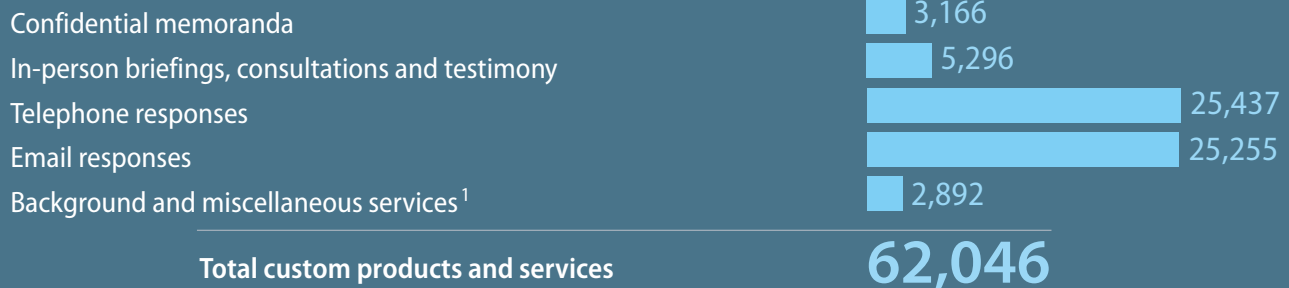
In FY2015 Members and committees received analysis and information from CRS through nearly 597,000 requests for products and services, including approximately 62,000 requests for custom analysis and research. In addition, more than 7,400 congressional participants attended CRS seminars, institutes, and training sessions.

By the end of the fiscal year CRS produced more than 1,200 new reports and other online products. Congressional clients viewed CRS.gov pages more than 2,274,000 times. CRS analysts summarized more than 8,200 bill versions for Congress.gov and the Legislative Information System. CRS served 100 percent of Member and standing committee offices. The following table provides more details of CRS performance.

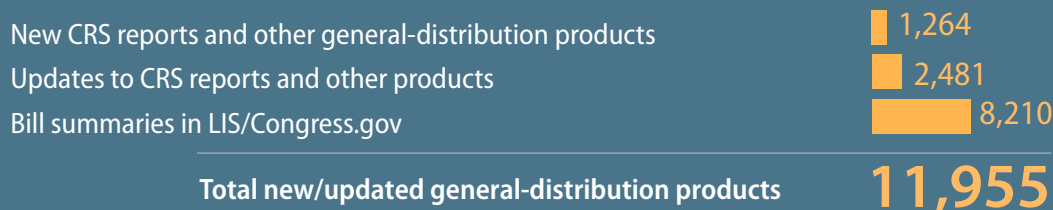
FY2015 CRS SERVICE TO CONGRESS: A SNAPSHOT

The following are selected data on products and services provided to Congress during FY2015. These data are derived from the CRS request management system, Web metrics application and other applications that measure output. CRS support for Congress also comes in the form of personal client interactions that may not always be captured by these systems.

CUSTOM PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



GENERAL-DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTS



¹ Summary of categories with small total counts, such as revising existing reports upon demand for a specific client, supplying DVDs of a recorded event, sending non-CRS created materials, etc.



WEB ACTIVITY

2,274,272 Congressional Views on CRS.gov Pages²

852,469

CRS Report and
General Distribution
Product Views

45,246

Appropriations
Status Table
Views

38,958

Legal
Sidebar
Views

5,866

Find an
Analyst
Page Views

4,663

Video Views
(Video Briefs and
Recorded Events)

3,200 MyCRS Subscriptions
(approximate active users at year end)

OTHER DATA

10,411

CRS reports and product titles
available at year end

100%

Member/standing
committee offices provided
custom services³

7,438

Congressional participants
in seminars, institutes and
training programs

² Includes the selected highlights indented below plus other pages on CRS.gov such as the home page, issue pages, and event pages.

³ Percentage for which at least one custom service was provided during the year, rounded to the nearest 1 percent.





II. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO CONGRESS

CRS supported Congress in FY2015 throughout all stages of the legislative process and across the full range of active public policy issues. CRS assisted in examining the nature and extent of problems facing Congress; identified and assessed policy options; helped with hearings on policy proposals and on implementation of existing policies; supported congressional review of nominations and treaties; and provided products, consultations, and briefings to address issues on the congressional agenda. The following discussion summarizes selected milestones in CRS legislative assistance for FY2015.

MAJOR ISSUES OF THE YEAR

Appropriations. CRS maintains an interdivisional team of analysts who are responsible for producing annual appropriations reports, responding to cross-cutting appropriation requests, and providing a range of different products related to the appropriations bills throughout the fiscal year. Members of the team are also responsible for maintaining and updating the most popular CRS product: the Appropriations Status Table. During this fiscal year CRS analysts, information professionals, and technical support personnel developed a new, nimble, and exhaustive version of the table that provides improved service to congressional staff who track appropriations bills. One outgrowth of this project was the development of a database of appropriations legislative actions dating from the mid-1970s. This unique database enables CRS to respond more quickly and more authoritatively to congressional requests pertaining to appropriations.

Budget, Debt, and Deficit. Throughout the year CRS provided analytic support on a variety of policy issues related to the federal debt and deficit. At the beginning of the year, CRS supported the continuing congressional debate over the FY2015 and FY2016 federal budget. Experts supported the debate by analyzing budget trends and the impact of recent legislation and examined a number of specific issues such as the impact of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) on federal spending and issues associated with reaching the debt limit. Congress called on CRS to address reductions to spending implemented as part of the Budget Control Act sequestration process, the potential consequences of reaching the debt limit, the long-term sustainability of the debt and deficit, and approaches to address the long-run budget deficit.

Comprehensive Energy Legislation. In FY2015, for the first time since the passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act (P.L. 110-140) in FY2008, there was movement on major energy legislation in Congress. CRS assisted with briefings, memoranda, support for

committee markup, and new products as Congress addressed electric grid modernization, security, and reliability; carbon capture, utilization, and storage; renewable energy incentives; oil and natural gas supply and trade; energy efficiency; and energy sector regulation.

Congressional Oversight. CRS provided support for committees in both chambers in their efforts to conduct oversight for the entire range of executive branch activities. Experts offered written analyses and conducted numerous briefings to assist Congress with both its investigative and oversight functions. Attorneys presented a seminar on congressional oversight and investigations at the CRS New Member Seminar in Williamsburg, which provided new Members with a practical look at the mechanics of congressional oversight and various challenges and legal concerns that may arise as they participate in committee-based oversight. CRS attorneys also worked extensively to analyze and advise Congress on both the legal principles governing the standing of Members of Congress to bring lawsuits to challenge executive branch actions and on a specific lawsuit that could impact the scope of executive privilege and Congress's ability to obtain information from the executive branch.

Constitutional Law. CRS attorneys continued to update the Senate document *Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation* to reflect the work of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution requires states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and to recognize same-sex marriages formed in other states, raised a host of questions about how constitutional protection of same-sex marriage interplays with religious freedom. CRS attorneys advised Congress on such issues as the obligations of marriage officiants to perform or facilitate same-sex marriage ceremonies, civil rights protections for same-sex couples and religious objectors, potential protections for religious social service providers in federally funded programs, and the impact on the

tax-exempt status of religious entities that object to same-sex marriage. CRS attorneys also advised Congress on whether owners of public accommodations may be required to serve same-sex couples, whether health care providers may be required to provide medical treatment regardless of a patient's sexual orientation, and whether religious institutions must provide housing to same-sex couples. Policy analysts addressed other constitutional issues such as the potential use of an Article V convention to propose amendments to the Constitution and an alternative method of electing the President through the National Popular Vote Initiative.

Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) for Meat.

Mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for meat sold at retail went into effect several years ago as required by the 2008 farm bill. However, Canada and Mexico challenged COOL in the World Trade Organization (WTO), claiming that COOL harms their livestock sectors. Between 2009 and 2015 the WTO ruled four times that COOL for beef and pork violates U.S. WTO obligations. Throughout this lengthy challenge process and the complex legislative debate in 2015 on how to forestall trade retaliation by Canada and Mexico, CRS was in the forefront by explaining the consequences of legislative options.

Defense Reform. CRS assistance to Congress as it considered reforms for the Department of Defense included analysis of national security strategy, analysis and options regarding major military space programs, the future role of nuclear weapons and long-term requirements for maintaining an effective nuclear force posture, and issues pertaining to the future composition of the military services. The Defense Department's acquisition policies and practices were another source of concern, particularly weapons systems cost-overruns and general efficiencies associated with acquisition practices. Military personnel issues included implications of the defense drawdown on the force structure and composition of the military services; military retirement reform; the planned integration of women into combat

roles and units; diversity in the armed forces, professional military education; and the Selective Service System.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

During this fiscal year the House and Senate each passed comprehensive reauthorization bills to amend and extend the ESEA. In support of these efforts, CRS analysts provided ongoing technical and analytical support to congressional staff working on the development and refinement of proposals that would make substantial alterations to ESEA grant-making approaches, funding allocation procedures, and the educational accountability provisions enacted under the No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110). CRS prepared simulations to model the distributional effects of proposed changes to several of the ESEA's grant allocation formulas, provided legal interpretations delineating the potential effects of proposals, and prepared numerous reports clarifying the potential reach of reauthorization proposals and examining the comparability of proposals included in different bills. CRS attorneys reviewed draft bills and briefed Members on legal issues.

Federal Health Insurance Programs. In 2015, to assist Congress in passing the Medicare Access and CHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA, P.L. 114-10) and several other bills with health insurance provisions, CRS identified and evaluated policy alternatives, prepared legislative support documents, provided hearing support including expert testimony, and analyzed how these issues might potentially interact and affect Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries, health care providers, and the federal budget. In support of MACRA, CRS analyzed the problematic predecessor formula for calculating updates to Medicare payment rates to physicians and assisted with the development of legislative options for replacing the formula. CRS also examined extending funding for CHIP and for the Community Health Centers Fund through FY2017 and extending and making permanent expiring provisions in Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs.

Financial Regulation. CRS supported congressional deliberations on the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and the legal, policy, and budgetary consequences of the expiration of the Bank's general statutory charter. CRS legal experts consulted with lawmakers on congressional oversight of the administrative implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203). Attorneys wrote extensively on state and federal enforcement actions against, and legal settlements with, financial institutions stemming from their mortgage servicing and mortgage-backed securities activities. CRS addressed legal issues associated with other financial regulation issues, including state efforts to legalize medical and retail marijuana, economic sanctions programs administered by Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, and Puerto Rico's financial difficulties.

Global Trade. Trade-related issues on the congressional agenda to which CRS analysts responded included reauthorization of the U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), U.S. trade relations with China and other major economies, and reauthorization of trade preference programs for Sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries. Additional trade policy issues for which CRS provided support were U.S. economic sanctions against Russia, policy issues involving U.S. trade relations with China and India, and legislation enacted in June 2015 to reform and reauthorize the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (P.L. 114-27), a U.S. regional trade preference program for eligible countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Immigration. Immigration was a major focus during the 114th Congress, largely because of President Obama's announcement that the executive branch is addressing immigration in the absence of congressional action on comprehensive immigration reform legislation. CRS reported on legal issues raised by the executive branch's November 20, 2014 announcement,

including challenges subsequently brought against certain initiatives, developments involving so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions that decline to honor some or all "immigration detainers," privacy issues relating to the disclosure of Social Security numbers, and the relationship between citizenship status and Social Security numbers.

Implementation of the Iran Nuclear Agreement and Sanctions. CRS supported Congress as it tracked, responded to, and deliberated over long-standing negotiations between Iran and the United States and other international powers regarding Iran's nuclear program that culminated in the July 14, 2015, Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). As Congress reviewed the plan of action during the period called for in the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (P.L. 114-117), CRS analyzed what the agreement did and did not require of Iran, the United States, and the other parties; the current status of Iran's nuclear program; and the role that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would play in the implementation of the agreement and the follow-on inspections regime. Experts assisted with issues such as how the deal might alter Iran's regional policies, including aid to terror groups; and how key U.S. partners in the region, including Israel and Saudi Arabia, viewed the agreement. CRS also examined the sanctions provisions of the agreement, including which sanctions were designated to be lifted, which ones would remain, which sanctions would be brought back into effect if warranted, and the nature of the authority to waive or lift sanctions on Iran.

International Law and Foreign Affairs Powers. In addition to legal support to Congress during the negotiation and culmination of the international agreement concerning Iran's nuclear program, CRS attorneys reviewed court cases against Iran that have resulted in monetary judgments against the nation and examined *Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, a case that might potentially have broader implications for the understanding of the constitutional allocation of foreign affairs powers between Congress and the President.

Other legal issues for which Congress sought assistance were the allocation of war powers between Congress and the President; how the War Powers Resolution and previous statutory authorizations to use force may apply; and the detention and trial of persons captured in the conflict with Al Qaeda, in particular those held at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. As the deadline for reauthorization of expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act (P.L. 107-56) approached, CRS legal experts assessed the validity of the National Security Agency's intelligence surveillance programs and addressed the timing of the sun-setting provisions and the newly enacted authorities.

Islamic State and the Syrian Civil War. Concern about the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa region played a large role as Congress and the administration looked at a range of crises ranging from the Syrian civil war to developments in Iraq and beyond. CRS assisted Congress by analyzing the international struggle against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups, not only in Syria and Iraq, but also in Libya, Yemen, Egypt, and various sub-Saharan African countries. Congress also sought CRS assistance as lawmakers questioned presidential authority to engage in military operations against the Islamic State and debated options for new or revised congressional authorization for the use of military force. Congress called on CRS to analyze the administration's Train and Equip Program and other assistance efforts to enable vetted Syrian rebel groups to counter terrorism. CRS also responded to congressional interest in the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict as well as that conflict's devastating toll on civilians and the refugee crisis it has created, the impact of Russia's increasing involvement on behalf of Syrian President Assad, and activities of the Islamic State and other violent jihadist groups in Africa in the context of building partners' counterterrorism capabilities.

Legislative Process. Analysts specializing in legislative process offered assistance to lawmakers in understanding complex congressional rules and practices related to the consideration of legislation from introduction to

enactment. Of particular note were CRS analysts' efforts to provide procedural assistance to a new partisan majority in Senate committees, including work to help set up the initial committee organizational meetings. CRS analysts undertook projects related to the changing use of the filibuster and of the cloture rule in the Senate, researched privileges of the House, and analyzed a variety of statutory rulemaking provisions. They provided information related to attempts to use the expedited procedures of the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. Secs. 801-808) to disapprove regulations and assisted in the debate over renewing the expedited procedures of the Trade Promotion Authority.

Planned Parenthood Funding, Family Planning Services, and Fetal Tissue Research. When the Center for Medical Progress released a series of videos that accused the Planned Parenthood Federation of America of profiting from fetal tissue research, the videos heightened congressional interest in fetal tissue collection and donation practices and the operations and federal funding sources available to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its affiliated health centers. CRS provided analytical support and consultative service to Congress as it held hearings, introduced legislation, and debated about fetal tissue donation in response to the videos, and whether FY2016 funding that might go to Planned Parenthood could be redirected to federal health centers without causing a loss of access to health care for those who would otherwise be served at a Planned Parenthood affiliated health center.

Proposal to Define "Waters of the United States." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly finalized a rule in May 2015 defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Secs. 1251-1387). The proposal revises regulations that have been in place for more than 25 years. The revisions are a response to the 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court rulings that interpreted the regulatory scope of the Act more narrowly than previously, but created uncertainty about the precise effect of the Court's decisions. CRS provided extensive support

for Congress by helping to define the scope and potential implications of the proposal and assisting Members who have offered legislative options to address concerns largely seeking to block the rule. The rule became effective in August 2015, but early in October a federal court blocked the rule's implementation nationwide.

Regulations and Rulemaking. Members of the 114th Congress expressed interest in the issuance and implementation of rules promulgated by federal agencies. CRS experts assisted by explaining and evaluating the executive orders and statutory requirements that govern the current rulemaking process. Analysts examined several legislative proposals pending before the 114th Congress that would change the rulemaking process. CRS also supported various committees and Member offices as they sought to identify and track specific types of regulations such as “major” or “economically significant” regulations.

Response to the Ebola Outbreak. The unprecedented Ebola outbreak in West Africa called for a CRS Service-wide response. Experts coordinated a report exploring the legal and policy aspects of travel from affected countries to the United States, covering transportation, immigration, and health issues, as well as the balance of individual rights and public health goals. Analysts and attorneys from across the Service addressed an array of congressional questions and concerns, including federal and state authority to impose quarantine and isolation requirements, legal authority to restrict foreign travel, authorities governing border entry, the applicability of the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, and the role of the Defense Department in providing assistance to stricken African countries. CRS supported Congress throughout its consideration of \$5.4 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations to fund U.S. efforts to address the outbreak abroad and strengthen detection and control efforts at home.

Surface Transportation. Surface transportation was one of the major issues facing Congress in FY2015, as the law authorizing federal highway and public transportation

programs, extended at the start of the fiscal year, was scheduled to expire in May. Federal taxes dedicated to these programs do not generate sufficient revenue to support the current level of spending. Congress has been particularly interested in exploring the possibilities of attracting private capital to build transportation infrastructure, but CRS reports and briefings have emphasized that private capital is a viable alternative only for a limited number of projects. CRS provided extensive support on financing issues and also on automotive safety and railroad issues. Congress provided a short-term extension of the authority into early FY2016.

Taxation. When Congress sought to develop a compendium of tax expenditures, CRS analysts provided an assessment of each one. Analysts also responded to corporate-tax related matters, particularly on international corporate migration. There was general interest throughout Congress over the various tax reform proposals that were being floated by Members, the White House, and outside think tanks. CRS fielded questions on how much the corporate rate could be reduced, whether businesses would change their structure in response to a reform, and how American multinational corporations avoid taxes. CRS analysts responded to questions surrounding the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148, as amended) and analyzed provisions such as the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage and the implementation of the so-called “employer mandate.” As Congress began debate on extending a series of temporary tax preferences (so-called “tax extenders”), which expired at the end of CY2014, Congress requested CRS assistance with analysis of the potential policy and economic consequences of the tax preferences.

U.S.-China Relations in the Global Context. CRS provided expertise and analysis to Congress as it examined expanding U.S.-China cooperation in addressing global and regional challenges such as climate change, the weak global economy, the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, Afghan reconstruction, and global pandemics. CRS also assisted



Congress regarding increasing friction in the U.S.-China relationship deriving from such issues as China's use of coercive tactics in its maritime disputes with neighbors; China's harsh treatment of activists, dissidents, and ethnic minorities; Beijing's new and pending legislation related to national security; and its resistance to calls for more democratic electoral reforms in Hong Kong. CRS examined the implications of China's use of extensive land reclamation to create artificial islands in the South China Sea, alleged Chinese involvement in cyber-espionage and cyber-theft against U.S. targets, and China's extensive military modernization, economic reforms, the potential for U.S. businesses in China, and China's efforts to broaden and deepen its economic and diplomatic engagement in other regions, particularly in Central Asia and in South and Southeast Asia.

Wildfires. At the end of the fiscal year the 2015 fire season was already the fourth-largest in terms of acreage burned, with drought conditions exacerbating the intensity and frequency of wildfires. Wildfire spending has more than doubled since the 1990s. A significant portion of that increase is related to rising costs of suppressing fires, even during years of relatively mild wildfire activity, although the costs vary annually and are difficult to predict in advance. As Congress debated the level and direction of federal spending on wildland fire management, CRS provided lawmakers with analysis and evaluation of congressional proposals to reform federal wildfire suppression spending.

FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEFENSE, AND TRADE

Defense Budget. CRS analyzed the potential impact of reduced spending due to sequestration on a range of issues associated with U.S. defense policy, national security spending priorities, and overseas military operations, especially in the Middle East. As is its tradition, CRS also hosted the first assessment for congressional staff of the Administration's proposed FY2016 defense budget, and throughout the year offered frequently updated summaries of highlights of the FY2016 defense authorization and appropriations bills as they moved through the Congress. Other CRS assessments of defense budget-related issues included the impact of a continuing budget resolution and the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) spending caps on the Pentagon budget, the Army's future proper active duty/reserve component mix, the militarization of law enforcement and the Department of Defense's "1033 Program" that provides excess defense equipment to law enforcement entities, the impact of a potential government-wide shut-down on DOD active-duty operations, and the implications of reducing cost-of-living benefits for military retirees. CRS also assessed DOD funding requests for certain weapons systems and issues such as the reauthorization of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-774), subject to the regular congressional budget and oversight process.

Europe and the Western Hemisphere. Congress called on CRS as it watched Great Britain's referendum on the future of Scotland, Scotland's subsequent national election, and the UK's vote on a possible exit from the European Union; terrorist incidents in France; and Europe's contributions to the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. CRS monitored the peace process in Colombia and tracked evolving U.S. policy toward Cuba. CRS experts recommended speakers and served as moderators in the congressionally sponsored program series entitled "Latin America on the Rise," first launched at the beginning of the 113th Congress. The series, designed to engage experts with congressional staff, has addressed such issues as education, freedom of the press, rule of law, private

investment, development, and U.S. engagement in the region. CRS also assisted Members and staff of the various inter-parliamentary exchanges in which Congress engages in both Europe and the Western Hemisphere, including the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue, the British-American Parliamentary Group, the Canadian-U.S. Inter-parliamentary Group, and the U.S.-Mexico Inter-parliamentary Group.

Intelligence. CRS analysts addressed issues associated with the U.S. intelligence community, including congressional oversight; balancing competing priorities within the intelligence community; and its evolution, organization, and management. Congress called on CRS experts to examine security and privacy issues related to surveillance, including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-511), the Central Intelligence Agency's use of enhanced interrogation techniques, covert operations, secrecy, and transparency. In this arena, CRS also addressed public access to the intelligence budget; the history, organization, leadership, management, structure, and budget process of the intelligence community; and oversight mechanisms within the intelligence community.

International Finance. As the ongoing debt crisis evolved in Greece, CRS analyzed major new developments to resolve it, including the European and IMF financial assistance packages and Greek economic reform efforts, and the implications of these developments for the United States. Other critical issues for which Congress drew on CRS expertise included consideration of reforms related to the governance of the International Monetary Fund and the emerging economies' desire for a greater institutional voice in line with their growing role in the global economy. Major developments in the global economy, including slower growth in Europe and in emerging economies such as China and Brazil, and exchange rate and market volatility, were also active areas of CRS assistance.

Military Health Issues. CRS analysts addressed a number of issues related to the health care provided to military service members, military retirees, veterans,

and their dependents and survivors. Of particular congressional concern was the level of transparency in the quality of care in the military health system. CRS supported Congress as lawmakers worked to increase the transparency of medical quality in the military health system and reviewed the recommendations included in the final report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

Russia. Russia's annexation of Crimea and its deepening involvement in a pro-Russia, separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine was a notable focus of congressional concern on which CRS provided ongoing support. CRS also assessed close U.S.-European cooperation on economic and other sanctions imposed on Russia and on the provision of financial and material support to Ukraine to maintain that country's independence and sovereignty. Congress drew on CRS expertise to address implementation of the Minsk-2 peace agreement, the reform movement within the government of Ukraine, military tensions in eastern Ukraine, NATO's role in the ongoing crisis, Russia's broader strategy toward the alliance, Moscow's opposition to U.S. and NATO missile defense plans in Europe, as well as Russia's backing of the Assad regime in Syria.

Strategic Transformation in South Asia. India is often characterized as a nascent great power and "indispensable partner" of the United States, one that many analysts view as a potential counterweight to China. For the past decade, the United States and India have been pursuing a "strategic partnership" based on shared values and apparently convergent geopolitical interests. CRS provided analytical support to Congress on numerous economic, security, and global issues and initiatives under way between India and the United States, and the role of Congress in identifying U.S. interests and options for advancing those efforts. CRS monitored the changing dynamics of India-China-Pakistan relations, as well Pakistan-India tensions, regional and global terrorism, the impact on the region of efforts to stabilize Afghanistan, nuclear weapons proliferation, links between Pakistan and indigenous American terrorism, human rights, and economic development. CRS experts

evaluated the apparent reversal of democracy in some parts of South Asia such as the Bangladeshi opposition's boycott of elections, the government's struggle with Islamic extremism, and continued efforts to address worker rights abuses. CRS also examined military intervention in governance in Pakistan and the situation in Sri Lanka, where presidential elections in late 2015 could usher in a new era of democratic governance.

U.S. Alliances and Regional Politics in Asia and the Pacific. CRS assisted Members when Congress prepared for Japanese Prime Minister Abe's April address to a joint meeting of both Houses, and when lawmakers sought to deepen their understanding of Imperial Japan's treatment of other countries from 1910 to 1945. CRS provided research and analysis on the relaxation of the U.S. ban on lethal weapons sales to Vietnam, preparations for Burma's second round of parliamentary elections in November 2015, national ceasefire negotiations between the Burmese government and armed organizations long embroiled in ethnic conflict, and U.S.-Philippines military cooperation. Other assistance included support on such issues as political developments and human rights in Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia; and U.S. economic and security priorities ranging from the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement to nuclear cooperation, hedging against Chinese military modernization, Taiwan's security, and countering threats from North Korea. CRS also assessed North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, its dire human rights situation, and leadership dynamics in Pyongyang.

DOMESTIC SOCIAL POLICY

The Affordable Care Act (ACA). During the past year Congress oversaw the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended) at both the federal and state level; lawmakers also considered and enacted amendments to the law and studied the law's current effects on the federal budget, as well as implications for future federal outlays. CRS assisted Congress by providing overviews of the law's provisions and analysis of relevant federal

regulations, guidance, and other administrative policies pertaining to private insurance, public programs such as Medicaid expansion, and health care delivery issues. CRS experts also prepared information on implementation of the ACA (including state decisions regarding implementation, new programs and grants, financing, and impacts of the ACA on stakeholders); analysis of legislative proposals that would modify or repeal ACA, such as repeal of various health-related taxes; and analysis of topics ranging from the legal challenges to the ACA's premium tax credits to the law's contraceptive coverage requirement. CRS also compiled current and emerging legislation and litigation resources to more efficiently monitor relevant health reform issues.

Child Care for Low-Income Families. The President signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law (P.L. 113-186) on November 19, 2014, reauthorizing the primary source of federal grant funding dedicated to child care subsidies for low-income families. This marked the first reauthorization of the act since its expiration in 2002. The new law substantially strengthened requirements related to health and safety, licensing, enforcement, and quality of child care. CRS actively supported Congress throughout the reauthorization process by providing background and analysis of program funding and rules, technical and policy review of multiple drafts of legislation, estimates of effects of proposed changes in funding allocation formulas on states and tribes, and consultation with congressional staff tasked with preparing amendments on a range of issues for floor consideration.

Child Nutrition Programs. CRS analysts helped Congress in its review of child nutrition programs (National School Lunch Program and certain other institutional food service programs) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). These programs were last reauthorized in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296); some provisions were due to expire September 30, 2015. At hearings to examine how the programs currently operate, topics included payment and eligibility accuracy, nutrition

standards, and potential revisions to the programs that provide summer meals and snacks. CRS held an introductory seminar on child nutrition reauthorization, developed new reports explaining funding, eligibility rules, and current issues in the WIC and the child nutrition programs, and responded to hundreds of inquiries on a range of related issues. CRS also helped staff understand the role of the appropriations bills that fund these programs and the general provisions that direct them.

Child Welfare. The majority of the child welfare programs Congress supports are devoted to increasing the safety, family permanency, and well-being of children. Funds are provided to state child welfare agencies, and most are made available to support children who have been removed from their families and placed in foster care or with new permanent adoptive families. Reforms discussed this past year at hearings and proposed in legislation (the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act, S. 1964) suggest policies that would redirect federal child welfare funds away from certain foster care spending and toward services to prevent the need for foster care. CRS facilitated congressional efforts to better understand current child welfare policy and addressed lawmaker concerns about the overuse of congregate care and the limited funding for preventing the need for foster care.

Cybercrime. Some content on the Internet is designed to be separate from the surface content that can be accessed in daily searches. This other content is that of the Deep Web — and the further corners of the Deep Web, segments known as the Dark Web, contain content that has been intentionally concealed and potentially used for criminal or other malicious activities. As policymakers became more aware of the potential of nefarious activities that can occur in the Dark Web environment, coupled with the data breaches that have occurred over the past year (breaches at the Office of Personnel Management, Anthem Inc., and Sony Pictures), CRS analysts played a pivotal role in helping congressional staff understand how criminals exploit the Internet to carry out illegal activity. CRS analysts also helped staff prepare for hearings and frame the cybercrime issue in a more

holistic manner — one that involves not only malicious actors and their capabilities but law enforcement and the ability to counter criminals.

Domestic Human Trafficking. The House passed eleven trafficking-related bills in the beginning months of the 114th Congress; and on May 29, 2015, Congress passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (P.L. 114-122). CRS analysts provided information and analysis to Congress on a number of legislative proposals; reviewed draft legislation; provided technical assistance and legislative consultation during markup; and as the main piece of legislation moved to the floor, offered support during consideration of the various amendments to the bill and their potential impact.

Federal Disability Program. Congress called on CRS as it expressed continued concern over the financial condition of the federal government's largest income maintenance program for individuals with disabilities: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Under current law at the time the Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund, which finances the benefits and associated administrative costs of the SSDI Program, was projected to be exhausted by the end of 2016. If depleted, ongoing tax revenues to the DI Trust Fund would have been sufficient to pay only about 80 percent of scheduled SSDI benefits. In response to that shortfall, CRS supported a series of congressional hearings on issues related to the financing of the DI Trust Fund by providing background and technical information on trust fund exhaustion and information on payroll tax reallocations between the Social Security Trust Funds. CRS analysts also assessed the potential effects of several of the proposals on the employment and earnings outcomes of certain SSDI beneficiaries.

Federal Pensions. Congress considered policy proposals to make a number of changes to the retirement benefits for federal employees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS), and the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Lawmakers also considered making changes to the retirement benefits for certain senior-executive service (SES)

employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). CRS analyzed legislative proposals related to federal pensions, compared these legislative proposals to current law, provided in-person consultations to congressional staff, convened a CRS seminar on federal retirement issues, and supported the implementation of phased retirement under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), which authorizes federal agencies to offer a phased retirement option to eligible employees.

Paid Leave. Congress considered several policy proposals to create entitlements for paid leave for certain employees such as the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 932, S. 497), the Guaranteed Paid Vacation Act (S. 1564), and the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2015 (H.R. 532, S. 2033). Other bills sought to create mechanisms for providing partial wage replacement to workers taking family and medical leave, such as the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (S. 786, H.R. 1439), the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2015 (H.R. 2741), and the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 (H.R. 313, S. 242). In support of this legislative activity, CRS analyzed and briefed congressional staff on relevant topics including paid leave proposals, general leave concepts, and the economic impacts of paid family leave. CRS also outlined the potential impacts of paid leave generally and for certain groups of workers, examined the literature, and catalogued relevant state laws.

Pensions and Retirement Income Security. Retirement security issues continued to be a concern for lawmakers. CRS consulted with congressional staff in formal and informal briefings and a number of written products on a variety of issues related to pensions and retirement income security, such as proposals to improve U.S. households' access to, and participation in, retirement plans. CRS also assisted Congress on a number of specific complex policy issues that arose during the year. For example, CRS analyzed policy issues surrounding multiemployer- defined benefit pension plans and the effect their insolvency could have on the federal government's insurance program for private

pensions, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). Also of interest to many in Congress is a change proposed by the Department of Labor to the definition of investment advice within retirement plans. CRS responded to numerous requests related to this controversial proposal and wrote a report that provided necessary background and context for understanding the proposed change.

Pharmaceutical Research, Development, Delivery, and Pricing. The 114th Congress held numerous hearings related to pharmaceutical research, development, and delivery. CRS supported congressional efforts on wide-ranging legislation, such as the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6), as well as more narrowly focused legislation aimed at, for example, reducing prescription drug abuse or facilitating research into potential medical uses of marijuana. CRS provided overviews of the Act's provisions and an analysis of relevant federal statute, regulation, guidance, and other administrative policies; explored policy options to address the problem of prescription drug abuse; and supported congressional efforts to develop and refine proposals that would make substantial changes to the treatment of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act (U.S.C. Sec. 801 et seq.) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (P.L. 75-717). CRS also provided analysis of growing spending for specialty pharmaceuticals as well as more general information about government spending for prescription drugs.

Police Accountability and Use of Force. Several high-profile incidents occurred in the past year in which police officers were involved in the deaths of citizens, some of which led to a series of demonstrations around the country protesting the treatment of people of color at the hands of law enforcement. The incidents generated interest among policymakers regarding how to repair the apparently decreasing amount of trust between law enforcement and the public. As Congress grappled with ways in which the federal government could assist affected communities to repair their relationships with law enforcement, CRS analysts provided guidance and analysis on topics such as the

role of the federal government in local police matters, mechanisms to improve police-community relations, and the adequacy of law enforcement agencies' reporting of deaths of persons in their custody.

Student Financial Aid. CRS assisted as Members contemplated comprehensive Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization proposals, adjustments to student loan repayment benefits, alterations to the design of Pell Grants, and changes to campus-based aid programs. Support included simulating the effects of varied changes to the federal need analysis formula, analyzing alternative student loan forgiveness options, and estimating the effects of making changes to income-based student loan repayment plans. CRS also prepared documents outlining the effects of the closure of a large chain of for-profit colleges on the student aid recipients attending those colleges and reviewed trends in and implications of student loan debt.

Veterans Benefits. Congress continued its efforts to address delays in veteran patient care and sought to ensure that the Veterans Choice Program, established by the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-146), was implemented seamlessly by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). CRS analysts responded to numerous inquiries regarding the provisions of the Act that were presenting implementation challenges, resulting in confusion among veteran patients and VA staff; enumerated the different statutory authorities for care outside the VA health care system; and addressed the ongoing reform proposals and departmental efforts to modernize VA's health care system. CRS legislative attorneys and analysts assisted with numerous legal and policy issues regarding VA employee accountability, employee misconduct, VA employee whistleblowers, and due process protections in civil service employment. The Service also provided information to Members as they responded to thousands of constituent requests pertaining to service delivery needs in health care, employment, education, housing, and social services for veterans.

GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Budget Process. CRS analysts assisted Congress in its examination of budget process issues, including the impact of budget control mechanisms on budgetary legislation. The Service assisted Congress in preparing for a budget resolution and a reconciliation bill, analyzed appropriations floor amendments and options for continuing resolutions, and provided information on budget process constraints on new authorization provisions, as well as on the implications of the expired provisions.

Campaign Finance and Election Reform. CRS analysts and attorneys supported Congress with research and briefings as both chambers assessed the 2014 elections and prepared for the 2016 election cycle. Lawmakers called on CRS to provide rapid analysis of a proposal, contained in what became the FY2015 omnibus appropriations law (P.L. 113-235), that significantly altered party and political action committee (PAC) contribution limits — the first major statutory change to campaign finance law in more than a decade. Congress turned to CRS to assess how the changes were affecting parties and to help lawmakers decide whether additional legislation was needed. CRS experts offered support as Congress considered politically active tax-exempt organizations, super PACs, and proposals to alter the Federal Election Commission. As the nation's voting process continued to evolve after the 2014 elections, Congress called on CRS to examine proposals for automatic voter registration, identification requirements for voting, and military and overseas voting. Analysts and attorneys also continued to assist congressional clients in their efforts to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-110) following the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* that suspended pre-clearance of voting changes in certain states and jurisdictions.

Census Bureau, Apportionment, and Redistricting. CRS legal and policy experts addressed the specific concerns of Congress related to Census Bureau operations and

appropriations, 2020 decennial census plans and testing, the American Community Survey, and the redistricting process. Other issues of interest included the need to control decennial census costs, Member and public perceptions of the American Community Survey, and redistricting in relation to the Voting Rights Act.

Congressional Administration. CRS staff continued to assist congressional staff with the administration and management of Member offices within the legislative branch, including supporting new Members taking office for the first time in January 2015, as well as providing help throughout the year on congressional mass communications and mailings, commemorative works in the District of Columbia, technology management in Congress, congressional service tenure, and staff pay. CRS provided briefings on a broad range of topics including the legislative branch budget, administrative processes, the Member Representational Allowance, management of chamber officers, government information creation and dissemination, and casework. CRS consulted with lawmakers on congressional ethics, congressional advisory commissions, training of congressional staff and interns, ensuring Capitol Hill and district office security, travel policies and costs, congressional staff benefits, legislative branch agency appointments, and congressional nominations to service academies.

Emergency Management Issues. CRS worked closely with Congress on issues of national preparedness, disaster response and recovery, and mitigation, with a focus on Members whose districts and states were affected by wildfires, flooding, and the Napa Valley earthquake. CRS responded to a multitude of questions related to the implementation of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (Division B of P.L. 113-2); FEMA disaster declarations, cost-shares, and preliminary damage assessments; public assistance; individual and household assistance; and the impact of the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25) on the provision of federal funding for disasters.

Executive Branch Organization. Congress called on CRS to analyze legislative proposals that would reassign statutory functions, alter agency leadership arrangements, abolish agencies and functions, and reduce the size of the federal government. Lawmakers asked CRS to analyze and comment on alternative approaches to interagency coordination of policymaking and implementation in such areas as national security and homeland security and to help refine proposals for the creation of national commissions and similar temporary study panels that would examine a variety of policy issues and developments.

Federal Grants Management. The current federal fiscal situation prompted Congress to examine several aspects of grants management, including identifying and preventing waste, fraud, and abuse; resolving unobligated balances in expired grant accounts; and reviewing the design and inherent mechanics of specific federal grants. CRS analysts reported on the effect of funding delays on federal grants management, delayed close-out of federal grants, federal grant databases and reporting requirements, and grants transparency in implementing certain provisions of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (the DATA Act, P.L. 113-101). CRS experts consulted with Congress to develop ideas and conceptualize strategies for improving the performance and oversight of federal grants and review draft legislation.

Federal Pay and Personnel. Issues related to management and administration of the federal workforce were subjects of broad and sustained interest for Congress. CRS provided briefings and written analyses for Members and committees on the various appointment authorities, position classification standards and qualification requirements for selected positions; federal pay schedules; pay adjustment processes; locality pay adjustments over time; a freeze on pay rates; critical pay authority; and performance and other types of awards and incentives. CRS analyses covered issues including the workforce characteristics of selected departments and agencies; policies governing

furloughs, reductions in force, and other statutory authorities to shape the size and composition of the civilian workforce; hiring flexibilities and removal procedures; the Senior Executive Service; the Federal Executive Boards; telework; executive agency policies and expenditures by executive agencies regarding conferences; and various approaches for recruiting and retaining an effective information technology and cybersecurity workforce.

Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy. The Federal Reserve played a central role in the response to the financial crisis that began in 2007, when U.S. financial conditions deteriorated, leading to the near collapse of the U.S. financial system in September 2008. As a result, the Federal Reserve gained additional regulatory authority over large financial firms with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203). Many of the Federal Reserve actions, in both monetary policy and financial regulation, have proven controversial, and CRS has supported Congress in its oversight role. This included preparation for the semi-annual testimony required from the chair of the Federal Reserve and consideration of legislation on the Federal Reserve, such as a proposal to subject it to an audit by the Government Accountability Office. CRS helped Congress understand the tradeoffs inherent in legislation as the costs posed by regulation were weighed against potential benefits to consumers and the stability of the financial system.

Firearm Regulations. CRS summarized legislative action in the 113th Congress on proposals considered in the wake of the December 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, tragedy. Some of those proposals addressed universal background checks, mental incompetency and firearms eligibility, and types of semiautomatic firearms capable of accepting interchangeable magazines. CRS analyzed the supplementary homicide reports compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and developed a comprehensive data set of mass murders committed with firearms for a 15-year timespan. CRS experts similarly developed a

comprehensive data set for mass public shootings from 1970 to 2013. CRS continues to provide ongoing support on gun control and the federal regulation of firearms.

Government Information Policy. CRS reported on government information policy and practices, including reports on legal access to federal records and the collection and retention of presidential records. Experts answered numerous requests seeking data on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing and policies and on the creation and operations of the federal government's more than 1,000 federal advisory committees — which provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the policymaking process. CRS analysts and attorneys responded to requests about the requirements that agencies must follow to ensure the appropriate collection and retention of all records, including those created by electronic means; briefed lawmakers regarding policy options on the design of transparent advisory committees; and assisted with preparation of hearings related to proper records collection and the administration of FOIA.

Government Procurement. Congressional interest in government procurement spanned a variety of issues and topics. Small business contracting and programs, domestic preference legislation and statutes (such as the Buy American Act, 41 U.S.C. Secs. 8301-8305), sourcing policy, project labor agreements, strategic sourcing, and suspension and debarment were among the procurement subjects of interest to Congress. Using the federal government's procurement database, CRS provided procurement data tailored to the needs of congressional requesters. The Service also provided policy and legal expertise to analyze draft or existing legislation and assist with hearing preparation. CRS attorneys prepared material on federal procurement law and reported on President Obama's Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces executive order and the legal mechanisms whereby the government can hold contractors accountable for failure to perform or other misconduct, both topics of recent congressional oversight.

Housing Finance. While housing markets in general continued to recover during FY2015, the government still plays a significant role in the mortgage market. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two government-sponsored enterprises, remain in conservatorship, guaranteeing mortgage-backed securities and paying their profits to the Treasury as compensation for the assistance they have received. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), a part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that insures certain mortgages, has previously had to draw on Treasury Funds. Jointly, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA have continued to dominate the mortgage market, with less lending being done by the private market than in the recent past. Congress examined this situation with new legislation introduced in both chambers of Congress. CRS economists and legislative attorneys supported Congress as it deliberated reform of the mortgage finance system, and analyzed options regarding the future disposition of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the possible reform of the FHA.

Inspectors General. Congress consulted with CRS on numerous occasions seeking a variety of information related to inspectors general (IGs), including the appropriation and staffing levels provided to IG offices, the law enforcement authorities provided to IG investigative employees, and the ability of IGs to access the information they need to perform their oversight duties.

Judicial Selection and Confirmation. Throughout the year CRS supported the Senate with analysis of the judicial appointment process in the form of in-person briefings, reports, and memoranda. A CRS team of analysts and information professionals continued to track judicial nominations using the CRS internal judicial nominations database. The database ensures that CRS can quickly respond to congressional inquiries about the status of current and past judicial nominations as well as provide statistics and accompanying analysis related to the judicial appointment process. CRS also analyzed issues related to administration and appropriations levels for the judiciary.

Legislative Branch Appropriations. CRS continued to assist Congress on consideration of the annual legislative branch appropriations acts. This included estimating the cost of individual congressional activities and comparing legislative branch and total discretionary budget authority, as well as researching the timing of the consideration of the appropriations bills; staffing levels and policies; and subjects related to legislative branch appropriations, including structure, cost of various programs, history, and funding. CRS also provided consultations to Congress regarding the impact of any lapse in appropriations and components of a continuing resolution.

Postal Service. Members of Congress traditionally have taken interest in the operations of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), including the number of days of mail delivery, services provided, and facilities. The Postal Service's recent, serious financial difficulties and concurrent cost-cutting and proposed service reductions have greatly heightened congressional interest in postal policy and the role the USPS may play in the 21st century. CRS provided briefings on postal issues to Congress, assisted with hearings preparation, and reported on disparate postal issues, including post office closures, postal finances, USPS employee pensions and health care, and pending postal reform legislation.

Puerto Rico. CRS analysts reported on the fiscal and economic crisis in Puerto Rico to support congressional hearings and requests, including an analysis of the economic factors that led to the fiscal situation and the numerous options presented to Congress for possible assistance.

Security Clearances and Background Investigations. Following the data breaches involving background investigation information from Office of Personnel Management's databases, Congress sought assistance and analysis from CRS on a range of topics related to the protection of government information and the impact of the data breaches on federal employees. Congress also



continues to seek assistance from CRS related to ongoing developments in security clearance procedures and insider threat programs that are being implemented, in part, in response to the unauthorized disclosure of classified information by vetted federal employees and contractors. Through in-person consultations and confidential memoranda, CRS analyzed the history of investigative responsibilities for background investigations and security clearances, administrative recommendations and legislative proposals for security clearance reform, and implications of the data breaches, including possible legal remedies available to victims of data breaches.

Terrorism Risk Insurance. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress enacted the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA, P.L. 107-297) to ensure the availability of insurance covering such attacks. Although envisioned as a temporary program, Congress renewed the program when it was set to expire in 2005 and 2007 and did so again in the 114th Congress (P.L. 114-1) but only after TRIA had expired at the end of 2014. CRS analyzed legislative proposals as Congress considered structural changes as well as whether TRIA needed to exist at all.

RESOURCES, INDUSTRY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Domestic Oil and Gas Supply and Exports. Increased U.S. supply of oil and natural gas from shale and other tight deposits has led to major shifts in fossil fuel markets. Growth in natural gas supply has resulted in a range of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export permit applications. Moreover, interest has grown in the possibility of exporting more U.S.-produced crude oil. Current statutes generally prohibit such exports except in a few specific cases; various bills have been introduced to amend or eliminate that prohibition. CRS analysts responded to requests for assistance on the issues of LNG and crude oil exports and other aspects of the “shale boom.” In March 2015 CRS held a major seminar on crude oil export policy. Floor action on bills to expand crude oil and LNG exports is possible early in FY2016.

Drought. Recurrent drought and periodic flooding challenge water resource managers and affect the management of federal infrastructure and related resources. Drought has affected much of the West, particularly California and the westernmost states in 2015. Dry conditions have also resulted in extreme wildfires. CRS work for Congress on drought touches on the intersection of the federal Endangered Species Act (P.L. 93-205) with ongoing management of federal water resources infrastructure such as dams and diversion facilities and resulting conflicts between different water users. CRS experts testified before Congress and reported on drought conditions and legislative efforts to address the drought. CRS also held numerous briefings and workshops focused on drought response.

Electric Utilities. CRS analyzed major issues facing the electric utility sector, with a focus on implications of environmental regulations, particularly EPA’s Clean Power Plan and ozone rules; industry infrastructure concerns; fuel prices; reliability; physical security; and cybersecurity. Confirmation hearings for new Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioners (FERC)

also created a forum for congressional debate about electricity policy. CRS specialists provided support and analysis both in anticipation of and in response to congressional requests.

EPA’s “Clean Power Plan.” The Obama Administration undertook a number of initiatives to control greenhouse gases (GHGs) known to contribute to climate change, including emissions standards for automobiles and GHG limits on new power plants. The most controversial initiative, finalized in August 2015, was EPA’s “Clean Power Plan” to control carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from existing power plants. The rule sets state emissions rate goals to be met by 2030. Each state is given flexibility to devise a strategy to meet these goals. Given the significant opposition to this rule and potential uncertainty about EPA’s application of a particular section of the Clean Air Act, litigation is expected. CRS addressed a variety of questions on EPA’s proposal as wide-ranging as the proposal itself, which involves analysis of the impacts on different industries and different regions; the carbon intensity of different fuels; power dispatch options, policy choices for EPA, states, and Congress; and legal analyses of the statutory foundation of the proposal.

Genetically Engineered Food Labeling. Some consumer groups have sought mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered (GE) foods, arguing that U.S. consumers should have an opportunity to see all relevant information on a label so that they can make food choices based on their own views about its perceived quality or safety. The biotechnology industry and many food processors oppose compulsory labeling, contending that consumers might interpret GE labels as “warning labels” implying that the foods are less safe or nutritious than conventional foods. During the congressional debate on this measure, CRS provided analysis and briefings on the potential implications of the bill, including its cost effects, and assisted Members in developing floor amendments. Attorneys analyzed the legal framework for food safety and labeling of GE food.

Homeland Security. Congress called on CRS to assist with the reorganization of the science directorate within the Department of Homeland Security. Analysts gave briefings and provided lists of potential witnesses and questions for hearings. CRS analysts also provided support by reviewing executive branch and industry programs and activities regarding homeland security.

International Food Aid and Development. The United States has played a leading role for years in global efforts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition and to enhance world food security through international food aid assistance — primarily through the donation or sale of U.S. agricultural commodities under the auspices of several congressionally authorized programs. One aspect of global food security policy is the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative. Because FTF is a presidential initiative its institutional longevity beyond the current Administration is uncertain. CRS provided assistance to Congress during this fiscal year as lawmakers evaluated the merits of FTF and debated whether to permanently authorize it in statute. Congress also continues to debate whether the delivery mechanism of international food aid should be shifted to cash-based food assistance rather than the current in-kind transfers of domestically purchased commodities. CRS provided in-depth, objective analysis of this controversial issue.

Increasing Domestic Oil and Gas Supplies. Advances in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have expanded domestic oil and gas production in many parts of the country. CRS analyzed various implications of this rapidly increasing U.S. oil and gas production, including the consequences for domestic supply and prices, energy exports, and environmental concerns such as air and water quality and greenhouse gas emissions. CRS analysts collaborated to ensure all views were analyzed in response to congressional requests.

Legislation to Reform the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act. Decades of experience implementing and enforcing the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act

(TSCA, P.L. 94-469) have demonstrated both strengths and weaknesses, and have led to reform proposals in Congress. CRS supported Members in both chambers as they addressed core provisions of the law and developed legislative proposals. The issues debated by Congress, with assistance from CRS analysts and attorneys, have involved science, chemical testing, economics and international trade, regulatory policy, hydraulic fracturing, and state versus federal roles.

Music Streaming Services. The music industry became the subject of considerable interest in Congress during FY2015. CRS analysts and attorneys offered numerous briefings and supported congressional hearings on music industry concerns as songwriters, performers, recording industry executives, radio broadcasters, and officials of music streaming services all made their way to Capitol Hill to argue that the copyright regime is badly out of date. The basic right to reproduce and distribute a musical work dates back to a 1909 law. Since then, the main avenue for distributing music has evolved from sheet music to vinyl records to compact disks to Internet downloads and now to streaming services. In consequence, recording artists and songwriters may receive different payments for songs played on radio stations than on digital music services, while some digital services that compete with one another face different requirements for royalty payments.

Patent Policy and Innovation. Congressional interest also extended to the protection of new technological innovation and intellectual property rights. CRS policy specialists analyzed patent reform legislation that may potentially change the current patent protection regime. The Service also conducted ongoing research and analysis in the areas of intellectual property and pharmaceuticals in response to congressional concern over the availability of lower-cost versions of biopharmaceuticals. CRS analysts and attorneys briefed lawmakers, produced analyses of proposed and introduced legislation, and identified three dozen stakeholders in the nationwide debate on the cost of off-patent drugs during the last year.

Science and Technology. In a complex global environment, science and technology have an impact on many policy issues of interest to Congress. In light of developments during the past year that highlighted the need to assess the future path of U.S. science and technology efforts, CRS analysts reported on U.S. space policy and the future of U.S. participation in flights to the International Space Station, prepared in-depth analysis of existing and planned federal laboratory construction, conducted cross-cutting analysis on a complex set of cybersecurity bills, and analyzed funding mechanisms that enhance the ability of U.S. industry and national laboratories to provide innovative science and technology breakthroughs.

Technology Policy and Competitiveness. The ability of U.S. industry, national laboratories, and other stakeholders to provide innovative science and technology breakthroughs in a global economy continued to be of great interest to Congress. The America COMPETES Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-358) provided a broad framework for funding national R&D priorities to assist these efforts. As policymakers sought to reauthorize this act, CRS experts worked with Congress to assess and analyze the funding mechanisms for these priorities and examined the role of the federal government in supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Telecommunications and Internet Policy. Analyzing and assessing telecommunications and Internet technology policy were also of concern to Congress, and CRS experts provided support to Congress on a wide range of issues, including providing explanations and hearings assistance as policymakers addressed the complex issue of moving the sole authority of control for Internet domain names from national to international purview. Congress called on CRS to address legal issues associated with the regulatory activities of federal agencies including the Federal Communications Commission and its newly promulgated Open Internet Order, municipal deployment of broadband facilities, net neutrality, and implications of the FCC's reclassification of broadband Internet access service.

LAW AND JUSTICE

Abortion and Health Care. CRS attorneys reported on state laws that require admitting privileges for doctors at abortion facilities and on state fetal pain laws and examined proposed legislation that would likely affect the availability of abortions. CRS legal experts addressed other timely issues of congressional interest including Medicare Part D provisions in the context of Puerto Rico’s financial crisis, the interaction of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (P.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936) privacy rule with state mandatory reporting requirements, the constitutionality of measures to defund Planned Parenthood, state authority under the Social Security Act to exclude Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid programs, and state and federal roles with respect to mandatory vaccination.

Administrative Law. Legal experts addressed transportation security issues, including the government’s establishment of a No-Fly List, proposals to privatize the air traffic control system, and the regulation of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in civilian airspace. Other assistance to Congress included analysis of the discretion of the National Institutes of Health to issue federally funded grants, treatment of amounts received from FCC spectrum auctions, congressional authority to enact restrictions on use of fees collected by federal agencies, and various rulemakings and constitutional challenges for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Civil Rights. Amid numerous reports of alleged police brutality and congressional interest in legislative responses, CRS analyzed the various sources of constitutional authority that would enable Congress to enact and implement law enforcement reform on the state and local level. CRS attorneys also provided guidance regarding gender identity discrimination and discrimination on the basis of sex. When several bills were introduced to address sexual violence at institutions of higher education, CRS legal experts provided guidance and support as these bills were considered. Other civil

rights issues for which Congress sought support from CRS included legislative efforts to strengthen pay discrimination and pregnancy discrimination laws; the applicability of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) to businesses that are part of the sharing economy, such as Uber and Airbnb; and issues regarding affirmative action, housing discrimination, and employment discrimination.

Criminal Law. CRS attorneys assisted Congress during consideration of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (P.L. 114-22), as well as sentencing and asset forfeiture reform. They analyzed issues relevant to the reform of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2510 et seq.), federal provisions defining “hate crimes,” federal criminal civil rights statutes, reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP, P.L. 93-415, 42 U.S.C. sec. 5601 et seq.), and criminal justice reform. CRS legal experts also kept Congress informed of federal and state judicial decisions related to the Second Amendment and firearms laws and legislative activity occurring at the state level; assisted in understanding federal proposals that would mandate background checks for private firearms transactions or would affect changes to the terms that prohibit persons with severe mental health issues from possessing a firearm; and interpreted federal laws related to law enforcement officials and carrying a concealed firearm.

Education Law. CRS legal experts reviewed draft bills, prepared reports, and briefed Congress on the Common Core State Standards Initiative and responded to multiple congressional concerns about whether the privacy of student data is sufficiently protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g).

Elections Law. Leading up to the November midterm 2014 election, CRS assisted Congress with legal issues such as challenges to state voter ID laws, voter ID requirements, same-day voter registration, early voting, the counting of out-of-precinct ballots, the

constitutionality of campaign finance regulation, and the Supreme Court's 2014 term as well as its recent focus on congressional redistricting.

Federal Tort Claims Act and Judgment Fund. With natural disasters such as the Gold King Mine spill, CRS legal experts informed Congress about ways affected persons could attempt to recover monetary damages from the federal government, in particular the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. Sec. 1346). CRS attorneys supported congressional offices in understanding the statutory limits of recovering under the Act as well as the Judgment Fund, the general source from which such monies are paid, and the statutory limits on using such a fund to make payments on behalf of the government.

Indian Law. Congress turned to CRS for advice on a broad range of Indian law issues, but two issues dominated the landscape of federal Indian law: the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA, P.L. 95-608) and application of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA, 29 U.S.C. Secs. 151-169) to Indian enterprises. CRS attorneys updated a report on ICWA to reflect new regulations and guidelines issued by the Department of the Interior, which are aimed at standardizing cases where Indian children are being removed from their homes. CRS also explained and provided consultation on the NLRA and its application to Indian tribes.

Intellectual Property. Patent law has been a major issue during the 114th Congress due to concerns raised by technology companies about frivolous or abusive lawsuits brought by patent assertion entities. CRS attorneys analyzed the potential impact on the patent system of litigation reform legislation and provided briefings and consultations to Congress on related issues.

Labor and Employment Law. CRS legal experts assisted when Congress considered issues pertaining to the NLRA, including the joint employment standard and the treatment of college athletes who receive scholarships as well as the application of federal labor and employment

laws to Indian tribes and tribal enterprises. CRS attorneys consulted with lawmakers on what is required by the NLRA and on amending penalties under the Act. Attorneys also supported Congress in its consideration of legislation to enhance the authority to take disciplinary action against senior executives and other officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tax Law. Congress called on CRS as it considered constitutional and other legal issues surrounding implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (P.L. 111-147); corporate inversions, including the current statutory framework regulating them and controversial IRS regulations that were finalized in 2015; and pending international, bilateral tax treaties. CRS attorneys identified and analyzed the legal implications of potential outcomes of the Supreme Court's decision in *King v. Burwell* upholding the availability of premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act. CRS attorneys also supported Congress regarding tax-exempt organizations, including their ability to engage in campaign activity; and the potential implications of *Obergefell v. Hodges* for tax-exempt status of religious entities.

Trade Restrictions. International trade attracted significant congressional attention. Of particular interest was the extent to which international agreements operate to check the United States' domestic activities. Among other requests, congressional clients sought information on the extent to which the jurisdiction of international investment tribunals, which are established under the terms of various international investment agreements, may effectively preempt national courts. In a similar vein, congressional clients requested advice on the extent to which World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements may circumscribe the United States' regulation of products to protect human health or the environment. To address these needs, CRS attorneys analyzed the legal issues surrounding investor-state dispute settlement provisions in international investment agreements as well as the WTO obligations that WTO members must meet when regulating products.



III. MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Management developed initiatives in FY2015 to optimize workflow, streamline operations and services, and enhance efficiency. Specifically these efforts included a New Member Seminar, a dialogue with staff throughout the Service to develop a CRS strategic plan, enhancements to the CRS Web site, work toward replacing an authoring and publishing tool, a review of CRS policies, and a pilot to develop interactive maps as CRS work products.

NEW MEMBER SEMINAR

CRS co-sponsored with the U.S. House of Representatives “Legislative Issues and Procedures, the CRS Seminar for New Members” on January 9–12, 2015, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The seminar provided incoming Members with an opportunity to meet with nationally recognized experts from outside and within CRS to discuss domestic and foreign policy issues of immediate interest to Congress. Nearly forty new Members attended the seminar. The seminar promoted discussion of policy issues within the legislative framework in a balanced and bipartisan setting. The program included a mix of general sessions addressing broad-based issues and breakout discussions focused on current legislative issues, as well as a unique session explaining House legislative rules and procedures.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The CRS Director hosted all-hands meetings and brown-bag lunch sessions with small groups of employees to begin a dialogue on the future of CRS. Feedback included comments from staff throughout the Service on the congressional environment — what has changed and what has remained the same. The discussion also focused on how to organize for greater efficiency, improve the CRS work product, sustain a professional workforce, and prudently deploy technology. Work on creating the strategic plan continued throughout the fiscal year. One of the first tasks identified is a review of operations, beginning with technology. The CRS plan is compatible with the Library’s overall strategic plan. CRS has kept its congressional oversight committees informed of the goals as well as progress on the plan. This five-year strategic plan will be implemented from 2016 to 2020.

CONGRESS.GOV ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As part of the Library’s multi-departmental team, CRS contributed to continuing development and daily operations of the next-generation legislative information system platform and services, Congress.gov. A multi-year



Library-wide strategy, Congress.gov will replace two legacy legislative information systems (LIS and THOMAS) with a single, modern one. CRS provided data analysis, subject matter expertise, consultation, system testing, user testing, coordination of data partner relationships, and support for congressional users and data partners. CRS also continues to support the use of the Congress-only LIS until equivalent capability is fully developed for the new Congress.gov. Accomplishments in FY2015 included addition of treaties, executive reports, and Senate executive communications to the Congress.gov collections; and enhancements to the Congress.gov user experience, advanced search, browse, portal, and display pages.

NEW AUTHORING AND PUBLISHING TOOL

CRS made significant progress in FY2015 on a multi-phase effort to identify and assess options for updating its existing system for authoring and publishing written products distributed directly to Congress. The activities in each phase are intended to forge a working coalition of relevant stakeholders and develop shared understandings of business needs and technical options. Phase 1, which began in FY2014, although much of the work was completed in FY2015, expanded the project view beyond the existing infrastructure, developed an understanding of the relevant trends and lessons learned by other organizations, and created a shared vocabulary to be used in development of successive requirements.

Phase 2, which began in March 2015 and is ongoing, is to engage a larger cross-section of stakeholders and develop a more detailed requirements and options analysis. The working group was expanded to include analysts, editors, reviewers, content managers, and developers. The efforts in Phases 1 and 2 involved a number of workshops and reports as well as a small survey of congressional offices to determine use of CRS research products and services.

POLICY REVIEW

A policy working group was formed in FY2015 with the goal of reviewing all existing CRS policies and guidelines to ensure consistency with Library of Congress regulations and relevancy to CRS staff, both in terms of the work CRS does for Congress and the professional responsibilities of all staff members in the Service. The policy working group initiated the process of drafting policy statements on CRS core values and amending and updating existing policies and guidelines. One of the goals of the review is to increase communication about CRS policies with staff at all levels to ensure that all employees are informed and understand the CRS core values and workplace expectations. The working group is headed by the Counselor to the Director and includes first-line supervisors from all CRS research divisions and infrastructure offices. Feedback and discussion with staff will be sought using a variety of means, including small group meetings and policy review in divisions and offices.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

For more than fifteen years CRS has partnered with academic institutions that build external research projects into their curriculum. These projects, often referred to as “capstones,” generate high quality research, supervised by a faculty member, that directly benefits Congress. At the same time, these projects provide students a chance to work with a public or private organization on a targeted research initiative through a formal contractual arrangement. CRS initiates projects with academic institutions to perform research tasks that CRS would

not be able to complete otherwise, usually involving high-volume data collection. The deliverables provided during the capstone are used by CRS analysts and attorneys in CRS products. In FY2015 CRS completed several capstone projects with academic partners in the areas of global illegal wildlife trade, lobbying disclosure, and the effect of housing on retirement savings.

INTERACTIVE MAPS

Geospatial analysis and mapping products illustrate complex public policy data, which can lead to improved understanding of multidimensional public policy issues. During the past fiscal year CRS developed more than 120 maps for Congress on issues of interest to lawmakers, including energy production, the location of oil pipelines, health care exchange enrollment, ports of entry, and conflict zones in the Middle East. To improve the usability and value of these maps, CRS actively engaged in the Library-wide project to develop a geospatial hosting environment (GHE). The GHE is enabling the transformation of static maps so that congressional clients will have the ability to zoom into a national map to see details at the local or district level, or to view the data behind a map of interest. Planning for the GHE project began in FY2014, with creation of the infrastructure in FY2015. At the end of FY2015 CRS successfully demonstrated the ability to produce interactive maps on the GHE.

SUMMARIES, A NEW WORK PRODUCT

CRS continues to explore approaches to capture key information and analysis from CRS reports and other products and present it in alternative formats to meet congressional client needs for authoritativeness, accuracy, and brevity. As part of this effort the Service established a working group to analyze the structure and content of CRS report summaries. Work began in FY2015 and will continue into FY2016 to identify options for developing one-page synopses of CRS reports and publishing them as stand-alone products.



DATA METRICS WORKING GROUP

The data metrics working group was organized to design and create data collections that will increase the decision-making efficiency of CRS managers. The impetus for this work is the need for CRS to better understand and evaluate the potential reach and effectiveness of its services, products, product types, formats, and the Web site for congressional clients. This need is particularly pronounced as CRS has developed a number of new product types, promoted the use of new report formats, and continues to advance the sophistication and diverse presentation of information and analysis on the Web site. The team examined what data exist as well as how data and information can be used, organized, and presented.

CRS WEB SITE IMPROVEMENTS

New “In Focus” and “CRS Testimony” products were developed for release on the Web site in FY2015. In Focus products are two-sided, one-page summaries of key issues on a given topic. They are available in printable PDF format as well as standard HTML pages. CRS produced approximately 250 In Focus products during the fiscal year. Late in the year the testimony template was developed to provide congressional staff with access to the formal written statements when CRS testifies before Congress. Both In Focus and CRS Testimony can be located on the CRS Web site by key word or author search, as can any other CRS product.

NEW SUPPORT FOR CRS STAFF

Writing Presentations Series. A pilot was begun this fiscal year to enhance writing skills throughout the Service. Experienced CRS colleagues provided staff with guidance, tools, and best practices for writing reports and other CRS products. These sessions offered a practical orientation to CRS writing and engaged participants in thoughtful discussions about producing quality products for Congress. Writing sessions included an overview of CRS products and services, the writing process, as well as editorial and policy reviews. Originally conceived as a writing presentations series for new hires, these sessions have become a permanent offering open to all staff and are scheduled biannually.

Research Assistants. Planning to bring on board research assistants (RAs) began in FY2014, with the first hires in place at the beginning of FY2015. The RA position was developed to assist analysts in responding to congressional requests, producing graphics, tables, and other components of products; collecting and analyzing data; and conducting other research duties as needed. The position was designed as a not-to-exceed three-year appointment to facilitate an influx of new and fresh talent and provide budgetary flexibility. Eleven RAs were hired to staff three research divisions. As a result, CRS has increased its nimbleness in responding to congressional requests and enhanced the quality of its written products.

Laptop Upgrades. CRS conducted an upgrade of its laptop infrastructure to improve the ability of analysts and attorneys to work offsite to serve Congress. Older models were replaced if they could not be economically refurbished. The upgrade included an increase in random access memory (RAM) to 8 gigabytes and a new battery to extend power capability to four hours. Other improvements significantly decreased log-on time. All machines underwent a profile migration to save staff settings and a total disk encryption upgrade for security.



APPENDIXES



A. FY2015 BUDGET, RESOURCES, AND OTHER FUNDING

During FY2015 CRS managed \$106.9 million in appropriated funds and \$384,416 in grants from six key nonprofit partners. CRS secures funding from nonprofit foundations in support of nonpartisan, objective, and confidential seminars for Members of Congress and their staff. Nonprofit funding partners included The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, Catherine D. and John T. MacArthur Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.

CRS grant fund expenditures of \$384,416 allowed the Service to provide the following supplemental events for approximately eighty-five Members and 204 congressional staff:

- November 2014, “Freshmen Class Orientation Lunch,” as part of the official House orientation for newly elected Members, CRS hosted a policy luncheon.
- January 2015, “Legislative Issues and Procedures: The CRS Seminar for New Members,” was the official policy orientation for newly elected House Members of the 114th Congress. CRS presented an overview of the policy issues likely to be on the legislative agenda for the new Congress as well as an introduction to legislative procedures.
- March 2015, “Global Health Appropriations Seminar,” hosted outside industry experts and explored the pros and cons of global health policy options being considered by Congress in addressing disease-based issues.
- March 2015, “114th Congress: Issues and Policy Seminar,” provided congressional staff with an objective, nonpartisan overview of the most pertinent issues facing Congress today and a forum to discuss those issues in a confidential setting with legislative colleagues and CRS experts.
- April through October 2015, “The Evolving Congress Seminar Series” commenced in April 2015, with a Members-only dinner discussion with E.J. Dionne, Michael Gerson, and Frances Lee about how Congress got where it is, and where it might be going. The seminar series continued with four breakfast discussions with senior congressional staff that focused on developments in Congress over the past hundred years. An additional two breakfasts are planned for FY2016.
- July 2015, “Freshmen Members Policy Lunch,” CRS collaborated with the freshman class presidents to host a bipartisan discussion on “Regular Order” for the appropriations process.

B. WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

In FY2015 CRS managed a robust workforce management program that focused on providing effective recruitment, training, and retention mechanisms for sustaining a high-quality workforce. Through a series of activities, CRS sustained and grew capacity and talent in specialized and targeted areas, strengthened staff competencies and expertise, facilitated responsible performance management, and demonstrated commitment to ensuring a diverse workforce.

STAFFING AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

CRS applied the Library's merit selection and selective placement processes to fill its permanent and indefinite positions. For short-term and intermittent staffing requirements, CRS utilized a range of flexible and efficient hiring options or recruited volunteers. CRS continued to diversify the composition of its positions to grow capacity in specialized areas to meet client demand. Comprehensive recruitment plans enabled CRS to reach diverse pools of high-quality applicants.

Merit Selection. CRS filled thirty-nine positions in FY2015: thirty-three permanent hires and six indefinite appointees (expected to serve more than one year but not a permanent employee). Thirty of the permanent/indefinite positions were filled with external candidates; the remaining nine were filled through internal promotions or reassignments. Twenty-two of the permanent/indefinite selectees were female (56 percent) and twelve were minorities (31 percent), including four internal candidates who received promotions. The thirty-three permanent hires included eight managerial or supervisory positions (two deputy assistant directors, three section research managers, one deputy chief information officer, and two section heads). The remaining twenty-five permanent hires included seven policy analysts, six information professionals, two information technology specialists, one editor, two legislative analysts, two legislative attorneys, one visual information specialist, one congressional relations specialist, two administrative support positions, and one program manager. Among the six indefinite appointments, three were research assistants, one was an

information technology specialist, one was a program manager, and one was a coordinator of division research.

Succession Planning. CRS identified opportunities to grow staff capacity and ensure succession planning using its in-house, entry-level hiring programs and leveraging interagency professional development assignments:

- The Graduate Recruit Program produced a diverse pool of talented students for a policy analyst position in the Domestic Social Policy Division. The selectee, a minority female, started as a temporary appointee and may be eligible for conversion to a permanent position in FY2016.
- Two selections including one female were made under the Service's Law Recruit Program. This program is designed to recruit third-year law students for entry-level law clerk positions.
- Interagency professional development opportunities were utilized to expand the expertise and skills of three policy analysts.

In addition to entry-level hiring, CRS developed a succession management plan to provide mitigating strategies (recruitment, retention, and knowledge management) for responding to critical vacancies. Focusing on succession target occupations, the plan presents a series of strategies for establishing succession planning across the Service, and identifying opportunities for creating a more flexible staff pool to cover work portfolios. The plan maps to the Library's overall succession strategy and the CRS draft strategic plan.

Short-term and Intermittent Staffing. CRS used the following methods to satisfy short-term and intermittent staffing requirements:

- The Volunteer Internship Program. CRS placed twenty-six volunteer interns, including seventeen females (65 percent). Volunteers in the research divisions developed research skills by participating in the legislative process. Five of these interns had already obtained doctorate and graduate degrees, while the remainder were pursuing either graduate or undergraduate degrees.
- The Law Clerk Program. Three law clerks were assigned to the American Law Division to develop their legal research and analysis skills. These law clerks had completed at least two years of law school.
- Volunteer CRS Retirees. Nine retired CRS employees, including two females, shared their collective expertise and institutional knowledge in public policy analysis with their former colleagues.
- Temporary Appointments. Twenty-eight employees were temporarily appointed to research divisions and infrastructure positions to meet short-term staffing requirements. Thirteen of the twenty-eight temporary hires were female (46 percent).
- Student Development Placement Programs. CRS placed one female student from the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program.
- Other Fellowships and Exchange Assignments. The Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division hosted four officers through the United States Air Force Fellows Program as well as one female through the U.S. Department of State and one male through the National Defense University. The Domestic Social Policy Division hosted one female through the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows

Program. CRS continued to serve as a host agency for Presidential Management Fellows (PMF). Two fellows from executive branch agencies, including one female, fulfilled their developmental experience requirements (typically four months) under the PMF Program by serving rotations at CRS.

Diversifying Areas of Specialization. The applied research statistician/methodologist position was established to optimize research capacity and workload allocation. The incumbent in this position will perform consultative statistical research design and data analysis in support of CRS analysts, attorneys, and information professionals responsible for supporting the legislative activities of Congress.

CRS hired two digital service librarians — one minority female and one minority male. This new position strengthens the CRS reference and information services capacity.

Diversity Efforts. CRS continued to expand outreach efforts to underrepresented groups to experience more diverse applicant pools for permanent and temporary positions and to develop stronger ties with diverse groups and organizations. These efforts included CRS attendance at the National Economic Association/American Society of Hispanic Economists Summer Conference and participation in a career fair at Miami Dade College, the largest and most diverse college in the nation. As in previous years, CRS partnered with the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program which resulted in the temporary placement of one Charles B. Rangel Scholar during summer 2015. CRS also utilized its long-standing student diversity internship program to expose undergraduate and graduate students to the CRS mission and work. Fifteen interns were placed throughout the Service to work on substantive research and projects. Three of the students were recruited from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National Internship Program.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

CRS implemented its performance management program with a focus on improved staff engagement and communication. Activities were held to further educate staff on program requirements and processes, and solicit input to strengthen program outcomes. In addition, CRS continued to support efforts that emphasized performance accountability and recognition.

Staff Brown Bag Sessions. A series of brown bag sessions on the CRS performance management and mentoring program were launched. These sessions provided a forum to emphasize and clarify program and procedural requirements, answer questions, and solicit feedback on program enhancements.

Performance Management Training. Recurring performance management training for staff remained essential to the Service's success in achieving its mission and objectives. Performance training sessions were held regularly for new supervisory and nonsupervisory staff. Training sessions introduced the CRS performance management framework and explained the roles and responsibilities staff and supervisors have in facilitating effective and accountable employee performance.

Staff Recognition. CRS held its annual Staff Appreciation Ceremony to highlight employee accomplishments and contributions throughout the year. In recognition of exceptional contributions in support of Congress and the CRS mission, one individual received the Director's Award — a distinct honor based on peer recommendations.

Senior Level Performance Assessment System Certification. In support of certification for the Library's senior-level performance assessment system, performance plans that incorporated measurable, accountable, and strategically aligned results were established for senior management.



STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CRS provided a variety of professional development and training opportunities to strengthen staff performance and enhance competencies and expertise. Relying on a combination of in-house expertise and external resources, CRS successfully tailored professional development and training activities to meet specific learning objectives and allow for enriched, meaningful experiences.

Leadership Development. The following supported supervisory development:

- **Leveraging Diversity Discussion.** Supervisors participated in a roundtable discussion to explore opportunities to leverage diversity and demonstrate the correlation between leadership, diversity, and inclusion. The discussion focused on sample performance measures for leveraging diversity and actions that effective supervisors use to demonstrate inclusiveness.
- **Leadership Development Framework.** A leadership development framework for first-line supervisors (GS-15 and below) was established to strengthen competencies in coaching, communication, and

results-oriented problem solving. Six courses were delivered — each course delivered twice.

Staff Professional Development. Staff professional development included the following:

- **Core Writing Curriculum.** CRS continued its efforts to offer research staff a core writing curriculum. Experienced colleagues from across the Service provided staff with guidance, tools, and best practices for writing reports and other written products. These sessions offered a practical orientation to CRS writing and engaged participants in thoughtful discussions about producing quality products for Congress. Writing sessions included an overview of CRS products and services, the writing process, as well as editorial and policy review. Originally conceived for new hires, these sessions are now a permanent offering open to all staff and are scheduled biannually.
- **Mentoring Program.** CRS continued its seven-year tradition of pairing new staff with experienced staff to help acclimate them to the CRS mission, operations, and culture. Ten information sessions were offered to mentees to learn more about CRS operations, policies, and procedures. Mentees also attended panel discussions to learn best practices in supporting Congress, including sessions on “Relationship Building with the 114th Congress,” and “Dealing with Politically Sensitive Topics.” Fifty mentors and mentees participated in the mentoring program.
- **“Hot Topic” Discussion.** Regular “hot topic” discussions were held to engage staff around important issues relative to their work or work environment. Discussions primarily focused on geographical information systems and tools used to enrich the analysis and dimension of products.

- **Special Assignments.** CRS partnered with external organizations to provide staff with short-term assignments in their respective issue areas and/or to support committee work in Congress. These assignments enhanced analysts’ ability to support the Congress by broadening their network of contacts to gain access to information and expand their expertise in specialized and distinct issue areas.

STAFF RETENTION

The overall FY2015 attrition rate was 6.1 percent, an increase of nearly 1 percent from the FY2014 attrition rate of 5.3 percent. Among the analysts/attorneys, the attrition rate was 6.2 percent, up 2 percentage points from the previous fiscal year. The attrition rate for the information specialists (e.g., librarians) was 6.2 percent, down 3 percentage points from the previous fiscal year. The majority of staff (62 percent) who left CRS retired.

Maintaining a low attrition rate is important for ensuring continuity of operations and meeting essential workforce requirements. To that end, CRS continued to use exit interviews as a tool to help measure employees’ overall satisfaction and work experiences and identify opportunities for improvement.

Exit Interviews. For the fourth consecutive year, CRS conducted voluntary exit interviews with staff who separated from the Service. The response rate for FY2015 was 54 percent. The information gleaned from these interviews echoed responses from previous years. Staff regard CRS as a good place to work, particularly for self-motivated individuals who thrive in intellectually vigorous environments. In terms of providing direct support to Congress, staff recommended that CRS remain vigilant in tailoring its product offerings to fit the needs of Congress, particularly with respect to the ways in which technological advances have affected the way Congress uses CRS products and services.

C. TYPES OF CRS SUPPORT TO CONGRESS: RESEARCH SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

Throughout FY2015 CRS provided Congress with analysis, research, and information to support its policymaking needs in the formats described below.

CONGRESSIONALLY DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTS PROVIDING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Reports for Congress. Reports for Congress, analyses, or studies on specific policy issues of congressional legislative interest, are often prepared to address issues raised in numerous congressional inquiries. Reports clearly define issues in legislative contexts. The basic requirements of these and other CRS written products are relevance, authoritativeness, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. Analysts define and explain technical terms and concepts, frame the issues in understandable and timely contexts, and provide appropriate, accurate, and valid quantitative data. A summary appears on the first page of most reports. Shorter report formats include fact sheets, FAQs, In Brief products, CRS Experts lists, In Focus, and Insight products. CRS reports are available online to the congressional community. Active reports are updated as events occur for issues that are of ongoing interest to Congress and are archived when they no longer reflect the current legislative agenda. These archived products remain available to Congress (searchable) to provide background and historical context.

Congressional Distribution Memoranda. These memoranda are prepared when the interest of a relatively small number of congressional readers is anticipated or when the transiency of the issue and the product make its inclusion as a listed CRS Report inappropriate. If an issue becomes important to a larger congressional audience, the product may be recast as a CRS Report for Congress.

ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSIBLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

CRS Web Site. The CRS Web site displays CRS products that are listed by current legislative issue and are accessible through online searching. The site also provides access to CRS reports and analyses of annual appropriations legislation. Also offered are a guide to legislative procedures, online registration for CRS seminars, and information on other services. The Web site includes links to constituent services-related information as well as legislative, legal, and basic resources for work in congressional offices. Other Web products developed in the last few years include legal sidebars, brief legal analyses of current topics; DVDs of CRS recorded seminars; a Twitter feature showcasing new CRS work (CRS4Congress); and a CRS mobile-friendly application to view contents of CRS reports. In operation since the 104th Congress, the CRS Web site is accessible only to House and Senate offices and other legislative branch agencies.

Appropriations. CRS experts working on appropriations continued to provide comprehensive legislative analysis and tracking for the twelve regular Senate and House bills. In FY2015 they assisted Congress with continuing resolutions, supplementals, and the budget resolution. The Service also provides access to a CRS appropriations status table for tracking legislation.

On the Floor. On the Floor, a weekly compendium of CRS products relevant to scheduled or expected floor action in the House and Senate, is available on the CRS Web site

and by email subscription to all Members, committees, subcommittees, and congressional staff. All bills and related CRS products listed on this page are linked to the bills themselves on their Bill Summary & Status pages and are linked to the products on the CRS Web site. On the Floor is updated throughout the week as needed.

CRS Programs Electronic Mailing List. Launched in FY2001, this email notification system provides subscribers with descriptions of upcoming CRS programs and links to online registration forms.

RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

The Service responds to requests for custom services from Members and committees and their staff. Frequently this is done by CRS analysts in the form of confidential policy and legal analyses, usually in memorandum format; consultations in person, by phone, or by email; and briefings on virtually all legislative and policy issues, each tailored to address specific questions directed to CRS by a requesting Member, committee, or their staff.

Confidential Memoranda. Confidential memoranda are prepared to meet a specific congressional request and are often designed to meet the needs of the congressional reader with a high level of expertise in a given topic. These memoranda are prepared for the use of the congressional requester, and CRS does not distribute them further unless the recipient gives permission. The memorandum format is often used by CRS attorneys, for example, to respond to highly focused inquiries about the legal implications of statutory provisions, proposed legislation, or executive actions.

Individual Staff Briefings. Individual or group staff briefings constitute another form of tailored response to congressional inquiries. CRS staff provide in-person briefings to Members and committees on specific policy issues. These briefings, for example, might focus on bills in formulation, foreign or domestic policy issues before

Congress, the legislative process, congressional operations, or general orientations to CRS services and products.

Telephone and Email Responses. Telephone and email responses to inquiries are a vital element in CRS interactions and consultations with Congress. CRS experts are directly accessible by phone or email; on a given day the Service responds to numerous calls and emails and provides information that may range from a statistic or a name to a short briefing or an interactive discussion analyzing alternatives for response to an issue. CRS goals in these instances are to provide expertise, ease of access, and personalized immediate response.

Briefing Books. Briefing books may be prepared for use by congressional delegations (CODELs) traveling abroad and are collections of materials that support specific purposes of a congressional trip. They may contain a variety of materials — maps, selected products such as CRS reports, and brief tailored written work, which can contain background and current issues regarding U.S. relations with specific countries on the trip, as well as questions Members might ask when meeting with government and other officials.

SEMINARS, INSTITUTES, AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Seminars. CRS conducted numerous seminars for Members and staff on a wide variety of issues of interest to Congress. Highlights of the year included the following public policy seminars:

- “Ebola: Question & Answer,”
- “Executive Action on Immigration: Legal Issues,”
- “FY2016 Defense Budget: Issues for Congress,”
- “FY2016 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress,”
- “Regulating the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems,”

- “Federal Funds Transparency: Issues Raised by the DATA Act of 2014,”
- “FY2016 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress,”
- “Issues in Reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),”
- “Grants Work in a Congressional Office,”
- “Military Action Against the Islamic State: Current Issues,”
- “Child Nutrition Reauthorization: An Introduction,”
- “Exchange Rate and ‘Currency Manipulation’ Debates: An Overview,”
- “Trade Promotion Authority,”
- “U.S. Crude Oil Export Policy,”
- “Federal Procurement Law: Key Concepts for Congressional Staff,”
- “FY2016 Federal Research and Development Funding: Issues for Congress,”
- “EPA Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Existing Electric Generating Units (Power Plants): Update,”
- “Cybersecurity Information Sharing Legislation: Legal Questions & Answers,”
- “Cybersecurity and Information Sharing: Policies, Pitfalls, and Proposed Solutions,”
- “Iran Nuclear Agreement: Questions & Answers,”
- “U.S.-Japan Relations Ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s April 29th Address to Congress,”
- “Reforming the State Department and QDDR 2.0,”
- “Debates Over ‘Currency Manipulation,’”
- “U.S. International Investment Agreements: Office Hours,”
- “Disasters 101: Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Response,”
- “Export-Import Bank Reauthorization: Office Hours,”
- “Same-Sex Marriage and Potential Implications of the Upcoming Supreme Court Decision,”
- “Retirement Reform: Policy Perspectives on Changing the Federal Civilian and Military Retirement Systems,”
- “Greece’s Economic Crisis: Office Hours,”
- “Supreme Court Term in Review,”
- “Campaign Finance: Office Hours,”
- “Congress, Oversight and the Intelligence Community,”
- “EPA’s Clean Power Plan,” and
- “President Xi Jinping’s State Visit.”

In March 2015, CRS hosted the 114th Congress: Issues & Policy Seminar. This all-day program complemented the New Member Seminar and included a general session on national security, a policy lunch that paired congressional staff with CRS experts, and breakout sessions including “China,” “Cybersecurity,” “Emerging Education Policy Issues,” “Energy,” “Immigration,” “Major Entitlement Spending,” “Middle East,” “Oversight,” “Space,” and “Trade.” CRS also hosted a multi-session conference on “Global Health Appropriations.”

There were also several public policy issues presented in a series of seminars. Six seminars were held as part of the “Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy” series, including “Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Who Regulates Whom, How?,” “Housing Finance System,” “Regulatory Relief in the 114th Congress,”

“Insurance,” “Banking,” and “Securities and Banking Issues: Focus on Glass-Steagall.” Five seminars were held as part of the Health Policy series, including “The Future of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP),” “Health Information Privacy and Security,” “Health IT: Promoting the Use and Exchange of Electronic Health Insurance Information,” “The Affordable Care Act (ACA): Individual and Employer Mandates,” and “Public Health 101.”

Evolving Congress Series. In April 2015 CRS hosted a dinner discussion for Members of Congress entitled “The Evolving Congress.” The program focused on how Congress has changed and what those changes mean for the future of the institution. Members heard from special guests including E.J. Dionne, Michael Gerson, and Frances Lee and had the opportunity to discuss the topic. CRS also hosted a series of special breakfast programs for senior staff as part of the “Evolving Congress Series.” This program, inspired by *The Evolving Congress* Senate committee print, provided thought-provoking discussion and practical analysis concerning how Congress has evolved to where it is today in its policymaking role, and what that might mean for the future. Sessions included “Tax Reform: Challenges & Opportunities,” “The Impact of Electronic Communications on Personal Offices and Committees,” “Strategies for Oversight: Technology, Transparency, and Public Engagement,” “Recent Developments in the Authorization Process,” and “The Special Challenges of Funding Transportation: Who Pays and Why it Matters.” These programs were supported in part by funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Legislative and Budget Process Institutes. CRS continued to provide legislative and budget process institutes. Congressional staff became acquainted with the practice of legislative procedures and the congressional budget process at a series of increasingly complex “institutes” held at regular intervals during the course of the year. In FY2015 CRS staff conducted fourteen introductory

institutes on legislative procedure and resources, including a session held in the CRS Senate Center. Three advanced legislative institutes were held for congressional staff and two advanced legislative process series were held for both the House and Senate. CRS staff conducted six introductory programs on legislative concepts in conjunction with the House Learning Center. Seminars on budget process, offered in nineteen sessions, provided congressional staff with an integrated overview of how federal budgeting works as well as a more advanced look at separate aspects of the process. A “Budget Reconciliation Process” series was held, including seminars on “House and Senate Procedures,” “Office Hours,” and “Senate’s Byrd Rule.” The District Institutes, offered four times during FY2015, were specifically tailored to the needs of staff working in Members’ home state offices. Three sessions on grants work in a congressional office were offered to Capitol Hill staff engaged in constituent services. In addition, in partnership with the Senate Office of Education and Training, CRS held Pre-Conference Institutes for Senate Constituent Services Staff and State Directors.

Legal Programs. For nearly three decades CRS has offered continuing legal education credits through its Federal Law Update to Members and congressional staff. The program consisted of twelve sessions offered over two weeks in both the spring and fall. CRS attorneys provided updates on important issues of law and policy directly related to the legislative agenda.

Through close collaboration with the Law Library of Congress, CRS co-sponsored a series of programs for congressional staff on legal research. Topics included using print and electronic sources to conduct legislative history and statutory research, and a general introduction to legislative research. Seventeen programs were held during FY2015.

Visiting Dignitaries. Establishing and expanding country-specific expertise and relationships is another activity CRS supports. Toward this end, specific policy

briefings were held with representatives from the Andean Parliament, Australia, Chile, Estonia, the European Parliament, Ghana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. In addition, CRS supported five delegations of visiting Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff for the House Democracy Partnership (HDP). Countries participating in the HDP during FY2015 were Afghanistan, Colombia, El Salvador, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Timor-Leste, and Ukraine.

Orientations and Briefings. Fifteen programs were offered to various organizations that sponsored congressional fellows. CRS staff prepared introductory orientations on CRS services, legislative process, and policy-specific briefings. Among the organizations represented were the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Political Science Association, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Twenty-five orientations on CRS services were held for new congressional staff, and sixty-one briefings were conducted for incoming congressional interns and volunteers. Numerous other briefings were held privately for congressional offices and fellowship groups.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES AND LEGISLATIVE DATA ENHANCEMENTS

Legislative Summaries. The Legislative Analysis and Information Section (LAIS) in CRS is required by statute to write and publish summaries of all legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress. These authoritative summaries are used by lawmakers, policymakers,

academics, and members of the public who are seeking accurate, objective, nonpartisan descriptions of both new and amended federal legislation. The summaries are published widely through Congress.gov, LIS (the Legislative Information System), THOMAS, and such services as Lexis and CQ.

Legislative analysts review and examine legislation to determine its meaning and effect on current law. They then draft summaries of the legislation as introduced and write more detailed analyses of any subsequent action versions of the legislation.

CRS continues to work with a Library-wide team to ensure that the transition to the Congress.gov Web site iteratively encompasses all the legacy LIS capabilities. The Quick Search form for Legislation is a significant Congress.gov milestone during FY2015.

OTHER SERVICES

Multimedia Products and Services. CRS provided a variety of multimedia products and technical assistance in support of Congress. Videos of public policy and budget briefings, educational seminars, and special events were available on demand to congressional staff via the CRS Web site or DVD. Thirty-eight videos were posted to the CRS Web site, including shorter-format videos reviewing the federal grants process, the recently completed Supreme Court term, and the federal transportation debate. Thirty video programs were also compiled as DVDs during the year. Policy and budget briefings included the conflict with ISIS, the EPA clean power plan, and the defense and international affairs budgets. Educational seminars focused on public health, retirement reform, and the defense acquisition process. The Service posted videos of a five-part series of programs examining financial regulatory policy, and four sessions of the Federal Law Update. Throughout the year CRS continued to provide two hours of television programming each weekday on the Senate closed-circuit television system.

D. CRS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CRS has adopted an interdisciplinary and integrative approach as it responds to requests from Congress. The Service seeks to define complex issues in clear and understandable ways, identify basic causes of the problems under consideration, and highlight available policy choices and potential effects of action. CRS is organized into the following divisions and offices to support the analysis, research, and information needs of Congress.

DIVISIONS

American Law Division. The American Law Division provides Congress with legal analysis and information on the range of legal questions that emerge from the congressional agenda. Division lawyers work with federal, state, and international legal resources in support of the legislative, oversight, and representational needs of Members and committees of Congress. The Division's work involves the constitutional framework of separation of powers, congressional-executive relations, and federalism. It includes the legal aspects of congressional practices and procedures and the myriad questions of administrative law, constitutional law, criminal law, civil rights, environmental law, business and tax law, and international law that are implicated by the legislative process. In addition, the Division prepares *The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation* (popularly known as The Constitution Annotated).

Domestic Social Policy Division. The Domestic Social Policy Division offers Congress research and analysis in the broad area of domestic social policies and programs. Analysts use multiple disciplines in their research, including program and legislative expertise, quantitative methodologies, and economic analysis. Issue and legislative areas include education and training, health care and financing, Social Security, public and private pensions, welfare, nutrition assistance, housing, immigration, drug control, crime and criminal justice,

labor and occupational safety, unemployment and workers' compensation, and other issues related to children and families, persons with disabilities, the aged, the poor, and veterans.

Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division. The Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division is organized into seven regional and functional sections that follow critical worldwide security, political, and economic developments for Congress. These include U.S. relations with individual countries, regional trends, and transnational issues such as terrorism, refugees, and other humanitarian crises, global health, nonproliferation, and global institutions such as the United Nations. The Division also addresses U.S. foreign aid programs, strategies, and resource allocations, State Department budget and functions, international debt, public diplomacy, and legislation on foreign relations. Research responsibilities include national security policy; military strategy; conflict dynamics; intelligence; U.S. and foreign weapons systems; military operations; defense acquisition; compensation, health, and social issues in the military; the defense budget; cybersecurity in defense and intelligence; and U.S. domestic and overseas military bases. The division examines key international economic developments and the roles and responsibilities of international financial institutions in addition to trade-related legislation, policies, programs, and U.S. trade performance and investment flows. Attention is also given to trade negotiations and agreements, export promotion, import regulations, and tariffs.

Government and Finance Division. The Government and Finance Division's work focuses on the organization, structure, operations, and management of Congress and its support agencies as well as the congressional budget and appropriations process and the legislative process. Among the financial issues covered by the Division are banking, financial institutions, insurance, mortgages, and securities, as well as taxation, public finance, fiscal and monetary policy, and the public debt. Other research addresses the interaction between taxes and interest rates and macroeconomic policy. In addition, the Division responds to requests on the organization, management, and funding of the federal executive and judicial branches, judicial and executive branch nominations, government personnel and the civil service, the presidency and vice presidency, and government information policy and privacy issues. The Division is responsible for policy work in the areas of intergovernmental relations and forms of federal aid, federalism, statehood and U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Also covered are economic development, federal planning for and response to emergencies, disasters, and acts of terrorism in the United States; survey research and public opinion polls; the census; reapportionment and redistricting; elections; and campaign finance, lobbying, and political parties.

Knowledge Services Group. The Knowledge Services Group's information professionals respond to congressional requests and partner with CRS analysts and attorneys in providing authoritative and reliable information to Congress. They write descriptive products and contribute to analytical products in policy research areas, support analysts and Congress by finding solutions for their information needs, recommend new research strategies and resources, and create customized products in a variety of formats. Information professionals identify, evaluate, and recommend authoritative research materials in print and digital formats; evaluate, acquire, and maintain data and geospatial information; and provide or coordinate specialized training on the use of information resources. They also provide direct support to Congress in congressional reading rooms and research centers.

Resources, Science, and Industry Division. The Resources, Science, and Industry Division covers an array of legislative issues for Congress involving natural resources and environmental management, science and technology, and industry and infrastructure. Resources work includes policy analysis on public lands and other natural resources issues, environment, agriculture, food, fisheries, energy, and minerals. Science coverage includes policy analysis on civilian and military research and development issues, information and telecommunications, space, earth sciences, and general science and technology. Support on transportation and industry issues includes policy analysis on transportation and transportation infrastructure issues, industrial market structure and regulation, and sector-specific industry analysis.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Office of Congressional Information and Publishing. The Office of Congressional Information and Publishing facilitates and enhances congressional access to timely and authoritative legislative information and CRS public policy expertise. In close consultation with CRS authors, the Office edits, provides graphics and production support for, and publishes CRS reports and related products. It organizes, analyzes, and publishes legislative information, including summaries of all pending legislation, provided through the Congress.gov system, the Legislative Information System (LIS), and THOMAS. The Office also works in partnership with other Library units, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, the Government Publishing Office, and other legislative branch offices to ensure accurate, timely, and complete access to legislative information. It has a major role in legislative branch initiatives to develop, operate, and maintain legislative systems. The Office develops innovative tools to improve the understanding of legislative documents, responds to congressional queries about the use and content of the legislative information systems, and maintains authoritative Member and staff data for the handling of research requests to CRS.



Office of the Counselor to the Director. The Office of the Counselor to the Director examines and defines the range of legal and policy questions and issues that arise from the operations of CRS, its relationship with Congress, other service units within the Library of Congress, and other legislative support agencies, and serves as the principal legal and policy advisor to the CRS Director, Deputy Director, and other senior management officials. The Office is also responsible for formulating, negotiating, advising, and implementing policies and legal positions on matters that emerge from interactions between management and the CRS labor organization. Additionally, the Office has responsibility for managing the receipt and assignment of congressional requests that come into the Service through the Congressional Services Section, providing authoritative guidance on policy questions involving sensitive or complex congressional requests, and supporting outreach to congressional clients.

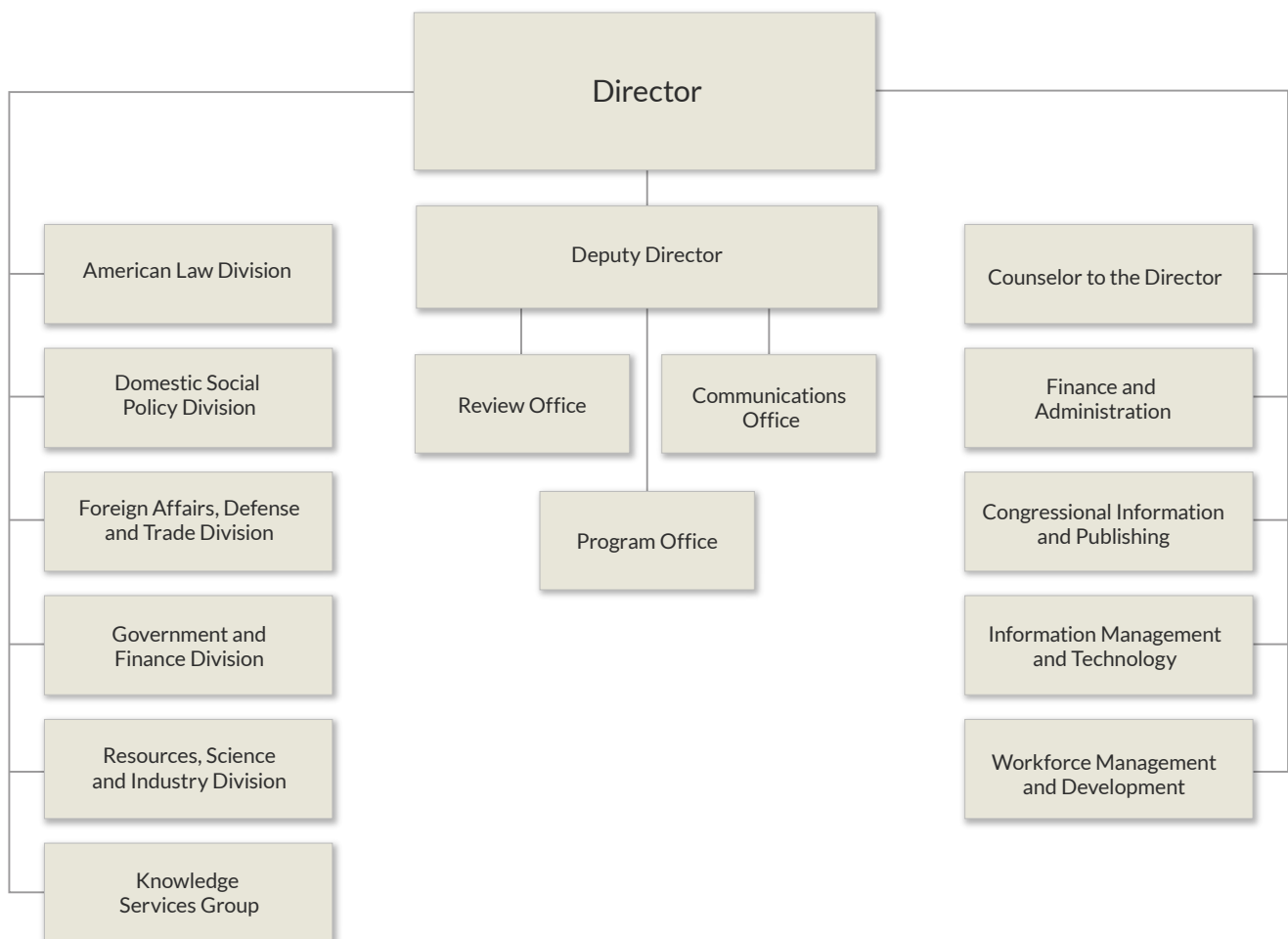
Office of Finance and Administration. The Office of Finance and Administration manages the business operations of the Service, which entails directing finance and budget, procurement, facilities management, and administrative programs. This includes coordinating the strategic planning and internal controls, preparing the annual budget request, evaluating resource requirements, and formulating and executing the fiscal operating plan. The Office performs all contracting and procurement

actions, acquires and distributes research materials, and supports travel and training activities. It oversees administrative activities including payroll administration, property and workplace security, and space utilization. The Office is the primary liaison for the Service's interaction with the Library in performing supportive functions and other operations.

Office of Information Management and Technology. The Office of Information Management and Technology establishes the information and technical capabilities required for CRS to provide research and analysis for Congress. This includes planning, procurement, project management, development, data management, operations, security, and maintenance of the information technology infrastructure and systems required to support the CRS mission. The Office is also responsible for the overall CRS enterprise architecture, records management, archiving, taxonomy, and content management.

Office of Workforce Management and Development. The Office of Workforce Management and Development oversees CRS human resources management capabilities. The Office provides a comprehensive package of services and programs designed to attract, develop, and retain quality talent to respond to the research and information needs of Congress. The Office also serves as liaison and collaborates with the overall Library on strategic human resources issues and initiatives.

E. CRS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



F. LISTING OF ALL SENIOR LEVEL POSITIONS BY TITLE, GRADE LEVEL, AND INCUMBENT AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF FY2015

As of October 1, 2014			As of September 30, 2015		
Position	Grade	Incumbent	Position	Grade	Incumbent
Director, Congressional Research Service	EX III	Mary B. Mazanec	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Director, Congressional Research Service	SL	Colleen J. Shogan	Same	Same	Same
Counselor to the Director, Office of the Counselor to the Director	SL	Lizanne D. Kelley	Same	Same	Same
Associate Director, Office of Congressional Information and Publishing	SL	Cliff Cohen	Same	Same	Same
Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Edward R. Jablonski ¹	Same	Same	Francois A. DiFolco ²
Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL	Lisa M. Hoppis	Same	Same	Same
Associate Director, Office of Workforce Management and Development and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Monica M. Woods	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, American Law Division and Senior Specialist in American Public Law	SL	Karen J. Lewis	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division and Senior Specialist in Social Legislation	SL	Laura B. Shrestha	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division and Senior Specialist in International Policy	SL	Michael L. Moodie	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division and Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	John R. Haskell	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Lillian W. Gassie	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division and Senior Specialist in Environmental Policy	SL	John L. Moore	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Counselor to the Director, Office of the Counselor to the Director	SL	Rachel A. Bouman	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL	Donna W. Scheeder	Same	15 ³	Vacant ⁴
Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division and Specialist in American Law	SL	T.J. Halstead	Same	Same	Same

As of October 1, 2014			As of September 30, 2015		
Position	Grade	Incumbent	Position	Grade	Incumbent
Deputy Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division and Specialist in Social Legislation	SL	Richard J. Rimkunas	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division and Specialist in Foreign Affairs	SL	Vacant	Same	Same	Patrick A. Garvey ⁵
Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division and Specialist in American National Government	SL	Pamela J. Jackson	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Science	SL	Lisa B. Dove	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division and Specialist in Environmental Policy	SL	Vacant	Same	Same	Dana A. Shea ⁶
Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, and Senior Specialist	SL	Richard C. Ehlke	Same	Same	Vacant ⁷
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Robert Jay Dilger	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Walter J. Oleszek	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Michael L. Koempel	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American Public Law	SL	Charles Doyle	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in Economic Policy	SL	Jane G. Gravelle	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in Science and Technology	SL	Eric A. Fischer	Same	Same	Same
Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist	SL	Larry M. Eig	Same	Same	Same
Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist	SL	Molly F. Sherlock	Same	Same	Same
Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist	SL	Karen Spar	Same	Same	Same
Coordinator of Review and Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Robin D. Grove	Same	Same	Same
Specialist on the Congress	SL	Judy Schneider	Same	Same	Same
Specialist in Environmental Policy	SL	James E. McCarthy	Same	Same	Same
Specialist in Resources and Environmental Policy	SL	Claudia Copeland	Same	Same	Same

¹ Edward R. Jablonski reassigned to the Librarian's Office on 06/13/15.

² Francois A. DiFolco appointed Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration from 08/09/15 not-to-exceed 09/08/16.

³ This position has been reclassified as GS-15.

⁴ Donna W. Scheeder retired on 03/02/15.

⁵ Patrick A. Garvey appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division on 08/10/15.

⁶ Dana A. Shea appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division on 08/09/15.

⁷ Richard C. Ehlke retired on 05/29/15.

G. LISTING OF ALL SPECIALIST AND SENIOR SPECIALIST PERSONNEL ACTIONS IN FY2015

Zoe Danon was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division from 06/15/14 to 10/13/14.

Francois A. DiFolco appointed Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration from 08/09/15 not-to-exceed 09/08/16.

Charles Doyle detailed to Acting Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division from 05/17/15 not-to-exceed 02/16/16.

Richard C. Ehlke, Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director retired 05/29/15.

Patrick A. Garvey appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division on 08/10/15.

Douglas B. Grob was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division from 06/28/15 to 08/07/15.

T.J. Halstead detailed Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director from 05/17/15 not-to-exceed 01/11/16.

Edward R. Jablonski, Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration reassigned to the Librarian's Office on 06/13/15.

Nathan J. Lucas was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division from 10/19/14 to 06/12/15.

William J. Mallet was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division from 11/02/14 to 01/30/15.

Glenn J. McLoughlin was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division from 07/27/14 to 10/24/14.

Donna W. Scheeder, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology retired 03/02/15.

Dana A. Shea was acting Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science, and Industry Division from 02/08/15 to 08/08/15 and appointed to this position on 08/09/15.

Molly F. Sherlock appointed Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist, Government and Finance Division from 08/24/14 not-to-exceed 01/21/16.

H. LISTING OF ALL SENIOR LEVEL POSITION CHANGES IN FY2015

As of October 1, 2014		As of September 30, 2015	
Position	Grade	Position	Grade
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL	Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	15

I. NEW CRS PRODUCTS IN FY2015

This appendix contains CRS written and Web products prepared for the Congress in FY2015. The products are arranged alphabetically by selected categories and may appear in more than one category. Congressional users can view the full text of products by visiting the CRS Web site (www.crs.gov).

The appendix lists CRS products available for congressional distribution as of September 30, 2015. It does not include the many CRS products prepared at the specific request of individual Members of Congress. These products are not disseminated further without the permission of the requesting office.

AGRICULTURE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2014 Farm Bill Provisions and WTO Compliance, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (R43817) | FY2015 Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations, by Jim Monke. 1 p. (IF10056) |
| The Administration's National Pollinator Strategy, by Megan Stubbs and Shiloh D. Perry. 2 p. (IF10276) | FY2016 Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations: In Brief, by Jim Monke. 7 p. (R43938) |
| Agriculture in the Bali Agreement: Implementation Impasse, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (IN10163) | Got Concrete Block? Congress Debates Mandatory Fees to Promote It, by Marc Levinson. 1 p. (IN10330) |
| Agriculture Issues in U.S.-EU Trade Negotiations, by Renée Johnson. 1 p. (IF10240) | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Ongoing Outbreak, by Joel L. Greene. 1 p. (IN10279) |
| Bee Health: The Role of Pesticides, by M. Lynne Corn and Renée Johnson. 1 p. (R43900) | Irrigation in U.S. Agriculture: On-Farm Technologies and Best Management Practices, by Megan Stubbs and Peyton McGee. 36 p. (R44158) |
| California Agricultural Production and Irrigated Water Use, by Betsy A. Cody and Renée Johnson. 25 p. (R44093) | Labeling Genetically Engineered Foods: The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, by Tadlock Cowan. 1 p. (IN10321) |
| Chicken Imports from China, by Joel L. Greene. 1 p. (IF10148) | Local Food Systems: Selected Farm Bill and Other Federal Programs, by Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. 30 p. (R43950) |
| Constitutional Implications of State GE Food Labeling Laws, by Emily M. Lanza. 20 p. (R44209) | Meat Animal Research Center: The Animal Welfare Act and Farm Animal Research, by Joel L. Greene and Tadlock Cowan. 6 p. (R44091) |
| The Farm Safety Net: In Brief, by Dennis A. Shields. 12 p. (R43758) | New Era Dawns in U.S.-Mexico Sugar Trade, by Mark A. McMinimy. 1 p. (IF10034) |
| Food Safety Issues: FDA Judicial Enforcement Actions, by Emily M. Lanza. 13 p. (R43927) | "Not a Couple of Bad Apples" – FDA Approves Genetically Engineered Apples and Potatoes, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1209) |
| Fundamentals of the U.S. Sugar Program, by Mark A. McMinimy. 1 p. (IF10223) | |

The following acronyms are used: AST = appropriations product, CP = committee print, IF = in focus, IN = insight, MAP = map, R = report, RL = report, WPE = seminar, WRE = recorded event, WSLG = legal sidebar, and WVB = video brief.

- Nutrients in Agricultural Production: A Water Quality Overview, by Megan Stubbs. 25 p. (R43919)
- Overview of Bioenergy Programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, by Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IF10288)
- Proposals to Reduce Premium Subsidies for Federal Crop Insurance, by Dennis A. Shields. 14 p. (R43951)
- Proposed Suspension Agreements Would End Dispute with Mexico over Sugar Trade, by Mark A. McMinimy. 1 p. (IN10178)
- Raisin Set-Asides and Property Rights: The Supreme Court Looks Twice, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1376)
- Reauthorizing the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act, by Joel L. Greene. 9 p. (R44025)
- Reductions to Mandatory Agricultural Conservation Programs in Appropriations Law, by Megan Stubbs. 1 p. (IF10041)
- Repealing (and Replacing?) Mandatory COOL for Meat, by Joel L. Greene and Daniel T. Shedd. 1 p. (IN10339)
- Survey of Major Agricultural Trade Issues for the 114th Congress, by Mark A. McMinimy, Coordinator, Joel L. Greene, Tadlock Cowan, Renée Johnson and Randy Schnepf. 20 p. (R43905)
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and U.S. Agriculture, by Mark A. McMinimy. 1 p. (IF10233)
- Update on the Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak of 2014-2015, by Joel L. Greene. 15 p. (R44114)
- U.S. Agricultural Trade with Cuba: Current Limitations and Future Prospects, by Mark A. McMinimy. 13 p. (R44119)
- U.S. Catfish Industry and Foreign Trade: A Fact Sheet, by Harold F. Upton and Andre F. Miller. 5 p. (R44177)
- U.S. Dairy Programs after the 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79), by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (IF10195)
- U.S. Farm Policy: Certified Organic Agricultural Production, by Renée Johnson and Shiloh D. Perry. 2 p. (IF10278)
- U.S. Farm Policy: Local and Regional Food Systems, by Renée Johnson. 1 p. (IF10232)
- U.S. Grain Standards Act: Potential Reauthorization in the 114th Congress, by Dennis A. Shields. 15 p. (R43803)
- U.S. International Food Aid Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (IF10194)
- U.S. Meat Animal Research Center: The Animal Welfare Act and Farm Animal Research, by Joel L. Greene and Tadlock Cowan. 1 p. (IN10224)
- U.S. Peanut Program and Issues, by Dennis A. Shields. 20 p. (R44156)
- U.S. Sugar Program Fundamentals, by Mark A. McMinimy. 16 p. (R43998)
- Withdrawal of the EPA-Army Corps Interpretive Rule for Agriculture, by Claudia Copeland. 1 p. (IN10212)
- The World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and Recent Food Labeling Cases, by Daniel T. Shedd. 22 p. (R44210)
- The WTO Brazil-U.S. Cotton Case, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (IF10193)
- WTO Disciplines of Domestic Support for Agriculture, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (IF10192)
- WTO Rules That U.S. Country of Origin Labeling Requirements Are Not COOL, by Daniel T. Shedd. 1 p. (WSLG1113)

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APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Budget: Fact Sheet, by Amanda K. Sarata. 4 p. (R44136)

Appropriations Report Language: Overview of Development, Components, and Issues for Congress, by Jessica Tollestrup. 23 p. (R44124)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1974, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1974)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1975, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1975)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1976, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1976)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1977, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1977)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1978, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1978)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1979, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1979)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1980, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1980)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1981, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1981)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1982, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1982)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1983, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1983)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1984, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1984)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1985, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1985)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1986, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1986)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1987, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1987)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1988, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1988)

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Appropriations Status Table for year 1992, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1992)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1993, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1993)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1994, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1994)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1995, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1995)

Appropriations Status Table for year 1996, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST1996)

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Appropriations Status Table for year 2000, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2000)

Appropriations Status Table for year 2001, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2001)

Appropriations Status Table for year 2002, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2002)

Appropriations Status Table for year 2003, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2003)

Appropriations Status Table for year 2004, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2004)

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Appropriations Status Table for year 2005, by Justin Murray. 1 p. (AST2005)	The Budget Reconciliation Process: Office Hours, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE2581)
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- Department of Homeland Security: FY2015 Appropriations, by William L. Painter, Coordinator, Jerome P. Bjelopera, John Frittelli, John D. Moteff, Shawn Reese, Sarah A. Lister, Lennard G. Kruger, Bruce R. Lindsay, Francis X. McCarthy, William A. Kandel, Daniel Morgan, Lisa Seghetti, Barbara L. Schwemle, Alison Siskin and Bart Elias. 1 p. (R43796)
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- Bankruptcy for Marijuana Businesses?, by Carol A. Pettit and David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1095)
- Calling Victims of Sudan, Iran, or Cuba: DOJ Wants You—and Your Ideas on Restitution Using \$3.7 Billion Forfeited by France’s Largest Bank, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1257)
- China as the World’s “Largest Economy,” by Wayne M. Morrison. 1 p. (IF10110)
- China’s Currency Devaluation, by James K. Jackson. 2 p. (IN10342)
- China’s Currency Policy, by Wayne M. Morrison. 1 p. (IF10139)
- China’s Recent Stock Market Volatility: What Are the Implications?, by Gabriel M. Nelson and Wayne M. Morrison. 1 p. (IN10325)
- Circuit Split on Insider Trading Law, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1353)
- Congress Allows Ex-Im Bank’s Charter to Sunset, by Shayerah Ilias Akhtar. 1 p. (IN10305)
- Congress and the Music Industry, by Brian T. Yeh, Dana A. Scherer and Marc Levinson. (WVB00056)
- Congress Contemplates Extending Volcker Rule Conformance Period for CLO Investments, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1143)
- Consumer and Credit Reporting, Scoring, and Related Policy Issues, by Darryl E. Getter. 15 p. (R44125)
- Continuation of *EPJ Fund v. Halliburton* Class Certification: Federal District Court Decision III, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1363)
- Court Finds AIG’s Bail-Out Terms Constitute an Illegal Exaction but Awards No Damages, by David H. Carpenter and M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1300)
- Court Orders Nomura and RBS to Pay FHFA \$806 Million, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1283)
- Credit Union’s Plan to Serve the Marijuana Industry Goes Up in Smoke, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1365)
- Debates over “Currency Manipulation,” by Rebecca M. Nelson. 1 p. (IF10049)
- Debates Over “Currency Manipulation,” by Rebecca M. Nelson, Ian F. Fergusson and Wayne M. Morrison. (WPE2536)
- The Debt Limit, by Grant A. Driessen. 2 p. (IF10292)
- The Demand for Municipal Bonds: Issues for Congress, by Raj Gnanarajah and Darryl E. Getter. 21 p. (R44146)
- Derivatives Provision in H.R. 26 and H.R. 37 Bars Regulators from Requiring Margin in Certain Swap Trades, by Rena S. Miller. 1 p. (IN10211)
- Discharged National Bank Officer’s Florida Whistleblower Claim Held Preempted by National Bank Act, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1270)
- Due Process Analysis Dominates Latest GM Bankruptcy Court Decision, by Carol A. Pettit. 1 p. (WSLG1254)
- Economic Crisis in Greece, by Rebecca M. Nelson. 1 p. (IN10295)
- Economic Crisis in Russia, by Rebecca M. Nelson. 1 p. (IN10200)
- Economic Development Administration: FY2016 Appropriations, by Eugene Boyd. 5 p. (R44112)
- Economic Effects of the FY2014 Shutdown, by Bisola Momoh and Marc Labonte. 3 p. (IN10364)
- Emerging Markets: Is Slower Growth Temporary?, by James K. Jackson. 3 p. (IN10366)
- The European Capital Markets Union, by James K. Jackson. 1 p. (IN10245)
- The European Union’s Small Business Act: A Different Approach, by Robert Jay Dilger. 21 p. (R44084)

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- Exchange Rate and “Currency Manipulation” Debates: An Overview, by Ian F. Fergusson, Wayne M. Morrison and Rebecca M. Nelson. (WPE2427)
- Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) Reauthorization, by Shayerah Ilias Akhtar. 1 p. (IF10017)
- Export-Import Bank Reauthorization: Office Hours, by Jessica Tollestrup and David H. Carpenter. (WPE2561)
- Extraterritorial Application of Dodd-Frank Whistleblower Statute in \$30-35 Million Reward, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1124)
- Federal Credit Programs: Comparing Fair Value and the Federal Credit Reform Act (FCRA), by Raj Gnanarajah. 24 p. (R44193)
- Federal Law Update: 11 - Current Legal Issues Relevant to the Financial Services Industry, by David H. Carpenter. (WPE2484)
- Federal Reserve: Dividends Paid to Commercial Banks, by M. Maureen Murphy and Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10322)
- Federal Reserve: Emergency Lending, by Marc Labonte. 30 p. (R44185)
- Fed’s Emergency Lending Rule Not Finalized a Year After Public Comment Period, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1247)
- Financial Regulatory Relief, by Sean M. Hoskins, Gary Shorter, Rena S. Miller and Marc Labonte. (WRE00101)
- Financial Regulatory Relief, by Sean M. Hoskins, Gary Shorter, Rena S. Miller and Marc Labonte. (WVB00051)
- Financial Services and General Government (FSGG): FY2015 Appropriations, by Baird Webel, Kevin J. Coleman, R. Sam Garrett, Wendy Ginsberg, Matthew E. Glassman, Raj Gnanarajah, Gary Guenther, Elaine Halchin, Garrett Hatch, Sean Lowry, Gerald Mayer, Rena S. Miller, Barbara L. Schwemle, Gary Shorter, Mark P. Sullivan, Barbara Salazar Torreon, Eugene Boyd, Michelle D. Christensen, Robert Jay Dilger and Patricia Moloney Figliola. 83 p. (R44172)
- Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) FY2016 Appropriations: Overview, by Baird Webel. 5 p. (R44133)
- FinCEN Fines MoneyGram Bank Secrecy Act Compliance Officer and Seeks to Bar Him from Financial Services, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1173)
- FinCEN’s Money Laundering Death Penalty Temporarily Blocked, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1388)
- FLU Preview- Current Legal Issues Relevant to the Financial Services Industry, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1231)
- Foreign Exchange Rate Rigging: Five Global Banking Institutions Plead Guilty to Crimes and Agree to Pay More Than \$10 Billion in Penalties, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1312)
- Fraud “Affecting” a Financial Institution Need Not Target the Financial Institution, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1341)
- FSOC Announces Rule Change to Increase Transparency in Designating SIFIs, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1190)
- GAO Decisions Would Impose Further Restrictions on Agencies’ Use of Reverse Auctions, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1249)
- A Guide to Describing the Income Distribution, by Sarah A. Donovan. 36 p. (R43897)
- House Bill Introduced to Codify Ban on Insider Trading, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1195)
- How Have Small Banks Been Affected by Financial Reform?, by Marc Labonte and Sean M. Hoskins. 1 p. (IN10276)
- How OFAC Calculates Penalties for Violations of Economic Sanctions, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1118)
- How Will the Federal Reserve “Normalize” Monetary Policy After QE?, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10170)

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H.R. 37 Derivatives Provision May Create Broader Exemption, by Rena S. Miller. 1 p. (IF10057)	Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Insurance, by Baird Webel. (WPE2450)
IMF Quota and Governance Reforms, by Martin A. Weiss. 1 p. (IF10134)	Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Insurance, by Baird Webel. (WPE2451)
Insurance Regulation: Background, Overview, and Legislation in the 114 th Congress, by Baird Webel. 36 p. (R44046)	Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Regulatory Relief in the 114 th Congress, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2406)
International Investment Agreements (IIAs): Frequently Asked Questions, by Martin A. Weiss, Coordinator, Shayerah Ilias Akhtar, Daniel T. Shedd and Brandon J. Murrill. 35 p. (R44015)	Introduction to Financial Services: Banking, by Raj Gnanarajah. 1 p. (IF10035)
International Trade and Finance: Key Policy Issues for the 114 th Congress, by Mary A. Irace, Coordinator, Brock R. Williams, Coordinator, Ian F. Fergusson, Martin A. Weiss, James K. Jackson, Wayne M. Morrison, Rebecca M. Nelson, Dianne E. Rennack, M. Angeles Villarreal, Benjamin Collins, Shayerah Ilias Akhtar and Vivian C. Jones. 1 p. (R43841)	Introduction to Financial Services: Derivatives, by Rena S. Miller. 1 p. (IF10117)
Introduction to Financial Regulation: Insurance, by Baird Webel. (WRE00115)	Introduction to Financial Services: Insurance Regulation, by Baird Webel. 1 p. (IF10043)
Introduction to Financial Regulation: Insurance, by Baird Webel. (WVB00068)	Introduction to Financial Services: International Supervision, by Martin A. Weiss. 1 p. (IF10129)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2395)	Introduction to Financial Services: New Series of CRS Products and Seminars, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10225)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2396)	Introduction to Financial Services: “Regulatory Relief,” by Marc Labonte and Sean M. Hoskins. 1 p. (IF10162)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Banking, by Darryl E. Getter. (WPE2541)	Introduction to Financial Services: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), by Sean M. Hoskins and David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (IF10031)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Housing Finance System, by Katie Jones, Sean M. Hoskins and N. Eric Weiss. (WPE2403)	Introduction to Financial Services: The Federal Reserve, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IF10054)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Housing Finance System, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2400)	Introduction to Financial Services: The Housing Finance System, by Sean M. Hoskins, N. Eric Weiss and Katie Jones. 1 p. (IF10126)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Housing Finance System, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2401)	Introduction to Financial Services: The International Foreign Exchange Market, by James K. Jackson. 1 p. (IF10112)
Introduction to Financial Regulatory Policy: Housing Finance System, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2404)	Introduction to Financial Services: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), by Gary Shorter. 1 p. (IF10032)
	Is Global Growth Slowing?, by James K. Jackson. 2 p. (IN10350)
	Is There a Gap in Insider Trading Coverage for Hacking?, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1381)

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Leverage Ratios in Bank Capital Requirements, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IF10205)

Life-Cycle Greenhouse Gas Assessment of Coal and Natural Gas in the Power Sector, by Richard K. Lattanzio. 29 p. (R44090)

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The “M” in MBank is Not for “Marijuana,” by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1205)

The Network for Manufacturing Innovation, by John F. Sargent Jr. 14 p. (R43857)

An Overview of Selected Legislation in the 113th Congress Related to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), by Sean M. Hoskins, Wendy Ginsberg and Maeve P. Carey. 28 p. (R43837)

Oxfam Sues SEC Over Not Yet Issuing New Resource Extraction Disclosure Rule, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1108)

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Preliminary Ruling in Target Data Breach Litigation Permits Bank and Credit Union Suit to Continue, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1140)

Proposed Legislation Would Amend “Nonmanufacturer Rule” in Response to *Rotech* Decision, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1229)

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Regulators Issue Voluntary Diversity Standards for Banks, Credit Unions, and Securities Firms, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1298)

Regulators Offer Depository Institutions a Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Tool as GAO Report Finds Issues with Regulators’ Monitoring of Cybersecurity for Depository Institutions, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1347)

“Regulatory Relief” for Banking: Selected Legislation in the 114th Congress, by Sean M. Hoskins, Coordinator, Edward V. Murphy, Gary Shorter and Marc Labonte. 24 p. (R44035)

Same Merger / Different Standards: FCC and DOJ Merger Review, by Kathleen Ann Ruane. 1 p. (WSLG1267)

SEC Continues to Face Criticism about Use of Administrative Forum, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1186)

SEC Imposes Sanctions on Unlicensed Digital Exchange Operator, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1148)

SEC Issues Final Rules on JOBS Act’s Title IV Regulation A, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1324)

SEC Issues New Credit Rating Agency Reform Rules, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1132)

SEC’s New Rule on CEO Pay Ratio, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1368)

Second Circuit Issues Ruling in International Banking Lawsuit, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1389)

Securities and Banking Issues: Focus on Glass-Steagall, by David H. Carpenter. (WPE2634)

Securities and Banking Issues: Focus on Glass-Steagall, by David H. Carpenter. (WPE2635)

Senate Banking: Financial Regulatory Improvement Act, by Sean M. Hoskins, Baird Webel and Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10278)

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- Small Business Administration (SBA) Funding: Overview and Recent Trends, by Robert Jay Dilger. 43 p. (R43846)
- Small Business Contracting Law, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (IF10138)
- Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange, by Joy M. Grossman and Annie L. Mach. 21 p. (R43771)
- A Snapshot of Student Loan Debt, by David P. Smole. 1 p. (IF10158)
- State Minimum Wages: An Overview, by David H. Bradley. 34 p. (R43792)
- Strip Tease? Supreme Court to Hear 11th Circuit's Decision Permitting "Strip Off" of Junior, Underwater Mortgages in Bankruptcy, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1128)
- Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Challenge to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Practices as to Contracting "Set-Asides" for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1322)
- Supreme Court Decides Case concerning Securities Act Section 11 Knowledge Requirement, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1248)
- Supreme Court Drops from Docket Case concerning Securities Act's Limitation of Actions Time Period, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1093)
- Supreme Court Grants Cert to Settle Art. III Standing Question Involving Consumer Protection Law, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1256)
- Supreme Court Grants Review of Short Sale Case Returned to State Court, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1340)
- Supreme Court: Rescinding a Mortgage Is a Simple Matter When Lender Does Not Provide Required Disclosures, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1159)
- Supreme Court Will Not Hear Challenge to Fed's Debit Card Swipe Fee Rule, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1166)
- The Swiss National Bank's Recent Currency Actions, by James K. Jackson. 1 p. (IN10230)
- Terrorism Risk Insurance Legislation in the 114th Congress: Issue Summary and Side-by-Side Analysis, by Baird Webel. 15 p. (R43849)
- Uniform Standard of Conduct for SEC Regulation of Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers?, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1243)
- U.S. Capital Markets and International Accounting Standards: GAAP Versus IFRS, by Raj Gnanarajah. 22 p. (R44089)
- The U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED): Economic Outcomes and Issues, by Wayne M. Morrison. 1 p. (IF10257)
- A U.S. Patent Box: Issues, by Jane G. Gravelle. 1 p. (IN10289)
- U.S. Sanctions on Russia: Economic Implications, by Rebecca M. Nelson. 14 p. (R43895)
- Virtual Currency Exchange Ripple Labs Penalized \$700,000 by DOJ and FinCEN for Bank Secrecy Act Violations, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1282)
- Volcker Alliance Report Proposes Restructuring Federal Financial System Regulation and Supervision, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1258)
- What Is the Current State of the Economic Recovery?, by Craig K. Elwell. 1 p. (IN10188)
- When It Comes to Banking, How Large Is Small?, by Sean M. Hoskins and Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10261)
- Will an Amendment to the Swaps "Pushout" Rule Push the "Cromnibus" to Defeat?, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1135)

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EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME

- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act: Major Statutory Provisions, by Benjamin Collins. 1 p. (R43789)
- Allocation of Funds Under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: H.R. 5 and the State Option, by Rebecca R. Skinner. 20 p. (R43929)
- Apprenticeship in the United States: Frequently Asked Questions, by Benjamin Collins. 5 p. (R44174)
- Benefit Reductions for Participants in Multiemployer Defined Benefit (DB) Pension Plans in H.R. 83, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, by John J. Topoleski. 1 p. (IN10196)
- The Changing Federal STEM Education Effort, by Heather B. Gonzalez. 1 p. (IF10229)
- Court Rejects Challenge to Department of Education's New Rules Affecting For-Profit Schools, by David Epstein. 1 p. (WSLG1345)
- Cybersecurity Doesn't Trump National Interest in Labor Certifications, by Travis H. Mallen. 1 p. (WSLG1204)
- Department of Labor's 2015 Proposed Fiduciary Rule: Background and Issues, by John J. Topoleski. 21 p. (R44207)
- Do Hiring Preferences for Tribal Members in a Tribe's Mineral Leases Constitute National Origin Discrimination in Violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act?, by Jane M. Smith. 1 p. (WSLG1147)
- DOL and FAR Council Issue Guidelines on Contractor Labor Executive Order, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1296)
- Educational Accountability and Reauthorization of the ESEA, by Rebecca R. Skinner. 1 p. (IF10157)
- Effect of Corinthian Colleges' Closure on Student Financial Aid: Frequently Asked Questions, by Alexandra Hegji. 7 p. (R44068)
- Employment Growth and Progress Toward Full Employment, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IN10187)
- ESEA Reauthorization Proposals in the 114th Congress: Selected Key Issues, by Rebecca R. Skinner and Jeffrey J. Kuenzi. 1 p. (R43916)
- ESEA Title I-A Formulas: In Brief, by Rebecca R. Skinner. 8 p. (R44164)
- Estimated FY2015 State Grants Under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), by Rebecca R. Skinner. 7 p. (R44097)
- Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order: Questions and Answers, by Rodney M. Perry and Kate M. Manuel. 32 p. (R44106)
- Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Order: Answers to Questions, by Kate M. Manuel and Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (IF10258)
- Federal Law Update: 08 - Current Developments in Labor and Employment Law, by Jon O. Shimabukuro and Margaret Mikyung Lee. (WPE2479)
- FLU Preview - Current Developments in Labor and Employment Law, by Jon O. Shimabukuro and Margaret Mikyung Lee. 1 p. (WSLG1226)
- FY2016 Extension of the Higher Education Act: An Overview, by Alexandra Hegji and David P. Smole. 25 p. (R44206)
- FY2016 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations: Status and Issues, by Karen E. Lynch. 1 p. (IN10293)
- House and Senate Floor and Committee Action to Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: 1966 to Present, by Shannon S. Loane and Rebecca R. Skinner. 1 p. (R43761)
- Immigration By Degrees: Scope of "Specialty Occupations" for H-1B Visas, by Alexandra M. Wyatt. 1 p. (WSLG1208)
- The International Labor Organization (ILO): Background in Brief, by Mary Jane Bolle. 12 p. (R44165)

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- International Trade Agreements and Job Estimates, by James K. Jackson. 1 p. (IF10161)
- Invoking Taft-Hartley in the West Coast Labor Dispute, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1179)
- Joint Employers and the National Labor Relations Act, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 5 p. (R43982)
- Joint Employers and the National Labor Relations Board's "Restated" Standard, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1407)
- Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education: FY2015 Appropriations, by Karen E. Lynch, Coordinator, Scott D. Szymendera, Gail McCallion, David H. Bradley and Ada S. Cornell. 49 p. (R43967)
- National Labor Relations Board Declines Jurisdiction Over Northwestern Football Players, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1408)
- New Federal Hiring Authority to Attract and Retain Digital Services Experts, by Kathryn A. Francis and Barbara L. Schwemle. 1 p. (IN10281)
- NLRB Weighs In on Insulting Facebook Posts Cases, by David Epstein. 1 p. (WSLG1343)
- OPM Publishes Guidance on Use of Federal Leave for New Parents, by Kathryn A. Francis. 1 p. (IN10267)
- The OSH Act: A Legal Overview, by Rodney M. Perry. 26 p. (R43768)
- OSHA Proposed Rule Contradicts D.C. Circuit Decision, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1377)
- OSHA's Proposed Crystalline Silica Standards, by Scott D. Szymendera. 1 p. (IN10258)
- OSHA State Plans: In Brief, with Examples from California and Arizona, by Scott D. Szymendera. 9 p. (R43969)
- Overtime Provisions in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Frequently Asked Questions, by David H. Bradley. 8 p. (R44138)
- An Overview of Accreditation of Higher Education in the United States, by Alexandra Hegji. 1 p. (R43826)
- An Overview of the Employment-Population Ratio, by Sarah A. Donovan. 15 p. (R44055)
- Pay Now or Pay Later: Garnishment of Social Security Benefits to Pay Federal Student Loan Debt, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1076)
- Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants: A Primer, by Gail McCallion and Kyrie E. Dragoo. 1 p. (R44008)
- Proposed Regulations Could Result in Overtime for More Workers, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1349)
- Rehabilitation Act: Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants, by Benjamin Collins. 14 p. (R43855)
- School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: a Primer, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. 34 p. (R43783)
- Sexual Violence at Institutions of Higher Education, by Jody Feder and Gail McCallion. 27 p. (R43764)
- A Snapshot of Student Loan Debt, by David P. Smole. 1 p. (IF10158)
- Status of the Federal Perkins Loan Program: Frequently Asked Questions, by Alexandra Hegji. 6 p. (R43959)
- Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Employment Discrimination, by Jane M. Smith. 1 p. (R43845)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers and the TAA Reauthorization Act of 2015, by Benjamin Collins. 12 p. (R44153)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers: Reauthorization Proposals in the 114th Congress, In Brief, by Benjamin Collins. 1 p. (R44009)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers (TAA), by Benjamin Collins. 1 p. (IF10109)

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Unemployment Insurance: Legislative Issues in the 114th Congress, by Julie M. Whittaker and Katelin P. Isaacs. 8 p. (R43993)

Worker Rights Provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), by Ian F. Fergusson and Mary Jane Bolle. 1 p. (IF10046)

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

Analysis of H.R. 5781, California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, by Betsy A. Cody, Charles V. Stern and Pervaze A. Sheikh. 46 p. (R43820)

California Drought: Water Supply and Conveyance Issues, by Betsy A. Cody. 1 p. (IF10133)

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Clean Water Act Penalty Developments, by Jonathan L. Ramseur. 1 p. (IN10217)

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Gulf Coast Restoration Efforts In Brief, by Charles V. Stern, Harold F. Upton and Pervaze A. Sheikh. 1 p. (IF10255)

Disasters 101: Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Response, by Francis X. McCarthy, Jared T. Brown and Bruce R. Lindsay. (WPE2535)

Drought Legislation: Comparison of Selected Provisions in H.R. 2898 and S. 1894, by Claudia Copeland, Betsy A. Cody, Pervaze A. Sheikh, Charles V. Stern and Nicole T. Carter. 18 p. (R44180)

Drought Legislation: H.R. 2898, by Charles V. Stern and Betsy A. Cody. 1 p. (IN10308)

Drought Legislation: S. 1894, by Betsy A. Cody, Pervaze A. Sheikh and Charles V. Stern. 3 p. (IN10344)

Drought Policy, Response, and Preparedness, by Betsy A. Cody and Nicole T. Carter. 1 p. (IF10196)

E.O. 13690 and Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, by Nicole T. Carter, Francis X. McCarthy and Rawle O. King. 1 p. (IF10150)

FEMA DRF Major Disaster Assistance: Alabama, by Daniel J. Richardson. 1 p. (IF10058)

FEMA DRF Major Disaster Assistance: Alaska, by Daniel J. Richardson. 1 p. (IF10059)

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- EPA's Clean Power Plan: Likely Legal Challenges – Part 2, by Robert Meltz and Alexandra M. Wyatt. 1 p. (WSLG1360)
- EPA's Clean Power Plan: Overview and Issues for Congress, by James E. McCarthy, Jane A. Leggett, Jonathan L. Ramseur and Robert Meltz. (WRE00113)
- EPA's Clean Power Plan: Overview and Issues for Congress, by James E. McCarthy, Jane A. Leggett, Jonathan L. Ramseur and Robert Meltz. (WVB00066)
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- How Can Federal Agencies Procuring Goods or Services Consider a Contractor’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions When Evaluating Contractor Proposals?, by Brandon J. Murrill. 1 p. (WSLG1342)
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- Hunting and Fishing: Analysis of S. 556 and S. 659, by M. Lynne Corn. 23 p. (R44102)
- If EPA Requires States to Submit Greenhouse Gas Plans, What Can It Do if States Refuse?, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1235)
- Indian Water Rights Settlements, by Samuel Kim and Charles V. Stern. 24 p. (R44148)
- Inland Waterways Trust Fund, by Charles V. Stern. 1 p. (IF10020)
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- Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G) for Federal Water Resource Investment, by Betsy A. Cody and Nicole T. Carter. 1 p. (IF10221)
- Proposed Amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in the 114th Congress: S. 697, S. 725, and a House Discussion Draft, by Alexandra M. Wyatt and Jerry H. Yen. 14 p. (R44024)
- The Quadrennial Energy Review, by Michael Ratner. 1 p. (IN10248)
- The Reclamation Fund, by Charles V. Stern. 1 p. (IF10042)
- The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): Compliance and Penalties, by Kelsi Bracmort. 1 p. (IF10121)
- The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): EPA Releases the Proposed Rule for 2014, 2015, and 2016, by Kelsi Bracmort. 1 p. (IN10294)
- The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): Waiver Authority and Modification of Volumes, by Kelsi Bracmort. 8 p. (R44045)
- Restoring Chesapeake Bay's Water Quality: Where It Stands, by Claudia Copeland. 2 p. (IF10283)

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

114th Congress: Issues & Policy Seminar, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2443)

Advanced Legislative Process Institute: July 23-24, 2015, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2682)

Advanced Legislative Process Institute: March 26-27, 2015, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2572)

Advanced Legislative Process Institute: November 2014, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2630)

“All Political Power Flows From the People”: Supreme Court Upholds Arizona’s Initiative-Created Congressional Redistricting Commission, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1317)

Altering House Ethics Committee Sanction Recommendations on the Floor: Past Precedent and Options for Action, by James V. Saturno and Jacob R. Straus. 16 p. (R44213)

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Abortion, Hospital Admitting Privileges, and *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 6 p. (R44205)

Abortion Provider Challenges Changes to Judicial Bypass Procedure for Unemancipated Minors, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1103)

Administrative Gaffe Forces CFPB to Delay Mortgage Disclosure Rule, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1348)

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- The Affordable Care Act's Contraceptive Coverage Requirement: History of Regulations for Religious Objections, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (IF10169)
- Agency Decisions Remanded for Reconsideration of New Facts, by Alexandra M. Wyatt. 1 p. (WSLG1241)
- Aiding, Abetting, and the Like: An Abbreviated Overview of 18 U.S.C. 2, by Charles Doyle. 4 p. (R43770)
- Aiding, Abetting, and the Like: An Overview of 18 U.S.C. 2, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (R43769)
- Another Year, Another *Hobby Lobby*? Challenges to the Contraceptive Coverage Requirement by Religious Nonprofits Continue Winding Through the Courts, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1214)
- The Antideficiency Act as an Impediment to D.C.'s Marijuana Legalization Initiative?, by Brian T. Yeh. 1 p. (WSLG1182)
- Appeals Court Affirms Dismissal of Challenge to 2012 Deferred Action Program, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1223)
- Appeals Court Decision May Make It Harder to Prosecute Alleged Insider Trading Violations, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1146)
- The Appointment Process for U.S. Circuit and District Court Nominations: An Overview, by Denis Steven Rutkus. 43 p. (R43762)
- Are Mandatory Non-Discrimination Policies Discriminatory?, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1097)
- As Midterm Election Approaches, State Election Laws Challenged, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1080)
- Asset Forfeiture: Selected Legal Issues and Reforms, by Richard M. Thompson II. 31 p. (R43890)
- Bankruptcy for Marijuana Businesses?, by Carol A. Pettit and David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1095)
- Barriers Along the U.S. Borders: Key Authorities and Requirements, by Michael John Garcia. 41 p. (R43975)
- The Beginning of the End of the Good Cause Requirement?, by Vivian S. Chu. 1 p. (WSLG1334)
- Big Deal? U.S. Changes Stance on Cruelty Prohibition, by Jennifer K. Elsea. 1 p. (WSLG1129)
- Bye-bye Bare-Bones Patent Complaints - Supreme Court Eliminates Form 18, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1304)
- Campaign Finance and the First Amendment: Wisconsin Supreme Court Interprets State Coordination Law to Reach Only Express Advocacy, Not Issue Advocacy, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1367)
- Campaign Finance: First Amendment Challenge to Party Soft Money Limits, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1387)
- Campaign Finance: Office Hours, by L. Paige Whitaker, Erika K. Lunder and R. Sam Garrett. (WPE2602)
- Campaign Finance Regulation Limiting Donor Disclosure Struck Down Again ... and Appeals Filed, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1189)
- Can Creditors Enforce Terrorism Judgments Against Cuba?, by Jennifer K. Elsea. 1 p. (WSLG1405)
- Can Marriage Conquer "Consular Nonreviewability" for a Spouse's Visa Denial?, by Margaret Mikyung Lee. 1 p. (WSLG1096)
- Can Military Servicemembers Carry Firearms for Personal Protection on Duty?, by Heidi M. Peters and Kristy N. Kamarck. 1 p. (IN10318)
- CFPB Sues Telecom Giant, Sprint, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1153)
- Charleston Church Murders: Federal Prosecution?, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1311)
- Charleston, SC, Mass Shooter Might Have Been Denied a Handgun If Not for Possible Recordkeeping Oversights, by William J. Krouse. 1 p. (IN10314)

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- Chemical Weapons Statute Withstands Constitutional Challenge in the Ninth Circuit, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1245)
- Chesapeake Cleanup Plan Drops Third Circuit Into Murky Waters, by Travis H. Mallen. 1 p. (WSLG1198)
- Child Welfare and Child Support: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183), by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara, Emilie Stoltzfus and Carmen Solomon-Fears. 1 p. (R43757)
- Circuit Courts Split Over Availability of Judicial Review After a Clean Water Act "Jurisdictional Determination," by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1250)
- Circuit Split on Insider Trading Law, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1353)
- Cities Try, and Fail (So Far), to Prevent Federal Marijuana Enforcement, by Todd Garvey. 1 p. (WSLG1090)
- Citizen Petition to FDA Claims "Diet" Soda Fraud, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1268)
- The Confederate Flag on State-Owned Land Is Not A Federal Constitutional Issue, by Kathleen Ann Ruane. 1 p. (WSLG1319)
- Confederate License Plates are Government Speech, Rules Supreme Court, by William A. Hornbeck. 1 p. (WSLG1383)
- Confusion Over "Likelihood of Confusion" Standards in Supreme Court Trademark Case, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1141)
- Congressional Oversight of Procurement Activities: Contract Law Concepts, by Brandon J. Murrill. 1 p. (IF10265)
- Continuation of *EPJ Fund v. Halliburton* Class Certification: Federal District Court Decision III, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1363)
- Copyright Law Restrictions on a Consumer's Right to Repair Cars and Tractors, by Brian T. Yeh. 1 p. (WSLG1382)
- Court Delivers Setback To California Water Rationing Plan, by Travis H. Mallen. 1 p. (WSLG1259)
- Court Finds AIG's Bail-Out Terms Constitute an Illegal Exaction but Awards No Damages, by David H. Carpenter and M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1300)
- Court Holds Animal Manure Subject to Federal Solid Waste Statute—Apparently for the First Time, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1211)
- Court Order Requiring that Removed Aliens Be Returned to the United States Raises Questions About Stays of Removal and the ICE "Return Policy," by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1378)
- Court Orders Nomura and RBS to Pay FHFA \$806 Million, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1283)
- Court Rejects Challenge to Department of Education's New Rules Affecting For-Profit Schools, by David Epstein. 1 p. (WSLG1345)
- Credit Union's Plan to Serve the Marijuana Industry Goes Up in Smoke, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1365)
- CRS Presents the Federal Law Update – Fall 2015, by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1392)
- CRS Presents the Federal Law Update – Spring 2015, by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1212)
- CRS Seminar on "Supreme Court Term in Review," by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1328)
- D.C. Circuit Dismisses Banks' Challenge to Controversial Tax Regulation, by Erika K. Lunder. 1 p. (WSLG1384)
- D.C. Circuit Rejects Use of the Toxic Substances Control Act to Regulate Spent Lead Bullets and Shot, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1155)
- D.C. Circuit Upholds Ban on Campaign Contributions by Federal Contractors, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1335)

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- D.C. District Court Upholds Interior's Interpretation of Sections 5 and 19 of the Indian Reorganization Act after the Supreme Court's *Carcieri* Decision, by Jane M. Smith. 1 p. (WSLG1185)
- Deferred Action, Advance Parole, and Adjustment of Status, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (IF10044)
- Disapproving D.C.'s Law on Nondiscrimination and Reproductive Health Decisions, by Jon O. Shimabukuro, Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1252)
- District Court Affirms TTAB's Cancellation of Redskins Marks, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1339)
- District Court Holds House has Standing to Pursue Portions of ACA Lawsuit, by Todd Garvey. 1 p. (WSLG1391)
- Do Certain Applications of the Endangered Species Act Exceed Congress' Commerce Power? A New Decision Goes Against the Judicial Trend, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1156)
- Does a Nuclear Agreement with Iran Require Congressional Approval?, by Michael John Garcia. 1 p. (WSLG1197)
- Do Hiring Preferences for Tribal Members in a Tribe's Mineral Leases Constitute National Origin Discrimination in Violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act?, by Jane M. Smith. 1 p. (WSLG1147)
- DOJ Antitrust Investigation into Airline Industry Takes Off, by Travis H. Mallen and Kathleen Ann Ruane. 1 p. (WSLG1329)
- DOJ Office of Special Counsel Opines That Texas E-Verify Order Runs Afoul of Federal Rules, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1261)
- Domestic Drones and Privacy: A Primer, by Richard M. Thompson II. 27 p. (R43965)
- Domestic Human Trafficking Legislation in the 114th Congress, by Kristin Finklea, Alison Siskin and Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 1 p. (R43917)
- Drug Enforcement in the United States: History, Policy, and Trends, by Lisa N. Sacco. 26 p. (R43749)
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- The Ebola Outbreak: Select Legal Issues, by Jared P. Cole. 1 p. (WSLG1079)
- Ebola: Selected Legal Issues, by Alissa M. Dolan, Jon O. Shimabukuro, Michael John Garcia, Rodney M. Perry, Edward C. Liu, Jared P. Cole and Jane M. Smith. 24 p. (R43829)
- Eleventh Circuit Provides Guidance for the Definition of "Foreign Official" under the FCPA, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1084)
- Email Privacy: District Court Rules that ECPA Warrants Apply to Electronic Communications Stored Overseas, by Jared P. Cole. 1 p. (WSLG1184)
- En Banc Ninth Circuit to Hear Visual Artists' Appeal in Case That Struck Down California's Resale Royalties Act, by Brian T. Yeh. 1 p. (WSLG1121)
- Encryption and Evolving Technology: Implications for U.S. Law Enforcement Investigations, by Kristin Finklea. 11 p. (R44187)
- EPA's Win-Loss Record for 2014 in Decisions of the Supreme Court and D.C. Circuit, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1158)
- Extreme Weather Events and Government Compensation, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1375)
- A Faithless Employee's Self-Dealing Is Not Mail Fraud, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1355)
- Federal Appeals Court Finds That Probable Cause Is Required to Hold Aliens Pursuant to Immigration Detainers, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1362)
- Federal Appeals Court Rejects Constitutional Challenge to Mandatory Immunization Law, by Jared P. Cole. 1 p. (WSLG1281)

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Federal Law Prohibits Sexual Orientation Discrimination, Rules EEOC, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1356)

Federal Law Update: 01 - U.S. Supreme Court 2014-2015 Term: Cases and Interpretation, by Andrew Nolan and Kenneth R. Thomas. (WPE2474)

Federal Law Update: 01 - U.S. Supreme Court 2014 Term Review: Cases and Interpretation, by Kenneth R. Thomas. (WPE2647)

Federal Law Update: 02 - Net Neutrality: The Impact of Reclassification, by Kathleen Ann Ruane. (WPE2475)

Federal Law Update: 02 - U.S. Supreme Court 2015 Term Preview: Cases and Interpretation, by Andrew Nolan. (WPE2649)

Federal Law Update: 03 - Drawing Lines: Recent Developments in the Law of Congressional Redistricting, by L. Paige Whitaker. (WPE2648)

Federal Law Update: 03 - *King v. Burwell* and Beyond: Health Care in the Supreme Court's Current Term, by Jennifer A. Staman and Edward C. Liu. (WPE2476)

Federal Law Update: 04 - The Role of Congress in Shaping the Debate Over Religious Freedom in a Post-*Hobby Lobby* World, by Cynthia Brown. (WPE2477)

Federal Law Update: 04 - When Things Go Bad: Government Options for Dealing with Contracting Problems, by Rodney M. Perry and Kate M. Manuel. (WPE2650)

Federal Law Update: 05 - Deterring Unauthorized Migration and Terrorist Travel, by Jared P. Cole and Michael John Garcia. (WPE2483)

Federal Law Update: 06 - Asset Forfeiture: Background, Selected Legal Issues, and Legislative Reforms, by Richard M. Thompson II and Charles Doyle. (WPE2478)

Federal Law Update: 07 - Same-sex Marriage and Social Security, by Emily M. Lanza and Rodney M. Perry. (WPE2482)

Federal Law Update: 08 - Current Developments in Labor and Employment Law, by Jon O. Shimabukuro and Margaret Mikyung Lee. (WPE2479)

Federal Law Update: 09 - Developments in International Trade: Implications for U.S. Domestic Law and the Role of Congress, by Daniel T. Shedd and Brandon J. Murrill. (WPE2485)

Federal Law Update: 10 - Taxation of Internet Sales: Legal Issues for Congress, by Erika K. Lunder. (WPE2481)

Federal Law Update: 11 - Current Legal Issues Relevant to the Financial Services Industry, by David H. Carpenter. (WPE2484)

Federal Law Update: 12 - Government Ethics, by Jack Maskell. (WPE2480)

Federal Power over Local Law Enforcement Reform: Legal Issues, by Jared P. Cole. 29 p. (R44104)

Federal Sentences: Marijuana Accounts for One of Every Four Drug Convictions, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1165)

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FIFA Officials Indicted, \$150 Million Corrupt Payments, No Banks Charged---YET, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1277)

The Fifth Amendment in Congressional Investigations, by Alissa M. Dolan and Todd Garvey. 1 p. (WSLG1390)

Fifth Circuit Upholds Texas Abortion Requirements, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1303)

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- Fiscal Distress in Puerto Rico: Two Legislative Approaches, by Carol A. Pettit. 1 p. (WSLG1289)
- FLU Preview: Asset Forfeiture: Background, Selected Legal Issues, and Legislative Reforms, by Charles Doyle and Richard M. Thompson II. 1 p. (WSLG1216)
- FLU Preview: Civil Rights – Selected Legal Issues, by Jody Feder and David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1402)
- FLU Preview: Current Developments in Labor and Employment Law, by Jon O. Shimabukuro and Margaret Mikyung Lee. 1 p. (WSLG1226)
- FLU Preview: Current Legal Issues in Food Labeling, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1399)
- FLU Preview: Current Legal Issues Relevant to the Financial Services Industry, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1231)
- FLU Preview: Deterring Unauthorized Migration and Terrorist Travel, by Jared P. Cole and Michael John Garcia. 1 p. (WSLG1215)
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- FLU Preview: Developments in the Law of Abortion and Reproductive Health, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1404)
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- FLU Preview: Taxation of Internet Sales: Legal Issues for Congress, by Erika K. Lunder. 1 p. (WSLG1228)
- FLU Preview: The Role of Congress in Shaping the Debate Over Religious Freedom in a Post-*Hobby Lobby* World, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1222)
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- Follow-On Biologics: Intellectual Property Issues, by John R. Thomas. 14 p. (R44173)
- FY2016 Appropriations for the Department of Justice (DOJ), by Nathan James, Coordinator, Lisa N. Sacco, William J. Krouse, Jerome P. Bjelopera and Kristin Finklea. 1 p. (R43985)

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Judiciary Budget Request, FY2016, by Matthew E. Glassman. 1 p. (IF10123)

Justice Department Releases New Guidance on Discriminatory Profiling, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1142)

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Money for Something: Music Licensing in the 21st Century, by Dana A. Scherer. 24 p. (R43984)

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- Naval Station Guantanamo Bay: History and Legal Issues Regarding Its Lease Agreements, by Daniel H. Else and Jennifer K. Elsea. 12 p. (R44137)
- New Abortion Law Prohibits “Dismemberment Abortions,” by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1224)
- Ninth Circuit Invalidates Another State Fetal Pain Law, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1293)
- The Ninth Circuit’s Influence on Second Amendment Cases After *Peruta v. San Diego*?, by Vivian S. Chu. 1 p. (WSLG1157)
- (No) Papers, Please: No Passports for U.S. “Foreign Fighters,” by Margaret Mikyung Lee. 1 p. (WSLG1074)
- No Second Amendment Cases for the Supreme Court’s 2014-2015 Term...Yet, by Vivian S. Chu. 1 p. (WSLG1086)
- No True Bill: A Grand Jury’s Refusal to Indict, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1126)
- Number of African American Judges Reaches All-Time High, Do Issues Remain?, by Barry J. McMillion. 1 p. (IN10234)
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- Proposed Sentencing Guideline Amendments, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1168)
- Public Trust and Law Enforcement—A Brief Discussion for Policymakers, by Nathan James, Coordinator, Jerome P. Bjelopera, Kristin Finklea, Natalie Keegan, Sarah A. Lister, Lisa N. Sacco and Richard M. Thompson II. 24 p. (R43904)
- Raisin Set-Asides and Property Rights: The Supreme Court Looks Twice, by Robert Meltz. 1 p. (WSLG1376)
- Recent Cases Illustrate Limits of Asserting Religious Objections Under the Free Speech Clause, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1144)
- Recent Recommendations for New U.S. Circuit and District Court Judgeships by the Judicial Conference of the United States, by Barry J. McMillion. 1 p. (IN10288)
- Reform of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), by Jared P. Cole and Richard M. Thompson II. 16 p. (R44036)
- Regulating Abortion Clinics as Ambulatory Surgical Centers, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1089)
- Repatriation of Foreign Treasures of Antiquity: Forfeiture Limitations, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1105)
- Retroactivity of LWOP Sentencing for Juvenile Offenders Still in Flux, by Alison M. Smith. 1 p. (WSLG1202)
- Risk and Needs Assessment in the Criminal Justice System, by Nathan James. 1 p. (R44087)
- Same-Sex Marriage: A Legal Overview, by Rodney M. Perry. 15 p. (R43886)
- Same-Sex Marriage and Potential Implications of the Upcoming Supreme Court Decision, by Erika K. Lunder, Emily M. Lanza and Rodney M. Perry. (WPE2568)

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- S.Ct. Allows Use of Midazolam in Lethal Injections (For the time being), by Alison M. Smith. 1 p. (WSLG1327)
- Seminar: Same-Sex Marriage and Potential Implications of the Upcoming Supreme Court Decision, by Cynthia Brown, Rodney M. Perry, Erika K. Lunder and Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1301)
- Sentence for Killing a Bald Eagle Found Too Severe and Unauthorized, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1352)
- Sex Trafficking: Proposals in the 114th Congress to Amend Federal Criminal Law, by Charles Doyle. 17 p. (R44007)
- Sexual Violence at Institutions of Higher Education, by Jody Feder and Gail McCallion. 27 p. (R43764)
- Sifting Domestic Terrorism from Other Illegal Activity, by Jerome P. Bjelopera. 1 p. (IN10299)
- Sixth Circuit Creates Circuit Split by Upholding State Same-Sex Marriage Bans, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1114)
- Sixth Circuit Overturns No-Jail Time Sentence for Child Pornography Possession, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1239)
- Small Business Contracting Law, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (IF10138)
- Smartphone Data Encryption: A Renewed Boundary for Law Enforcement?, by Kristin Finklea. 1 p. (IN10166)
- Socks as Drug Paraphernalia: Why the Stretch?, by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1183)
- South Carolina Church Shooting and Hate Crime in the United States, by Kristin Finklea and Lisa N. Sacco. 1 p. (IN10297)
- Special Prosecutors: Investigations and Prosecutions of Police Use of Deadly Force, by Richard M. Thompson II. 1 p. (WSLG1136)
- Standards for Display of Religious Symbols in VA Chapels, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1130)
- State Considers Amendment to Protect Human Life at Any Stage of Development, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1106)
- Suing the Government: Interpreting Filing Deadlines, by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1160)
- Supreme Court Acts Again on Same-Sex Marriage: Kentucky Clerk Must Issue Same-Sex Licenses While Appeal Is Pending, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1371)
- Supreme Court Again Considers Required Accommodations for Religious Beliefs in the Work-place, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1206)
- Supreme Court Agrees to Consider Redefinition of One-Person, One-Vote in State Legislative Redistricting in *Evenwel v. Abbott*, by Dennis W. Polio. 1 p. (WSLG1325)
- Supreme Court Agrees to Consider Whether a State Prohibition on Judicial Campaign Fundraising Violates the First Amendment, by L. Paige Whitaker and Cynthia Brougher. 1 p. (WSLG1100)
- Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Arizona Redistricting Commission Case, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1077)
- Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Challenge to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Practices as to Contracting "Set-Asides" for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, by Kate M. Manuel. 1 p. (WSLG1322)
- Supreme Court Answers Visa Denial Row with More Questions, by Travis H. Mallen. 1 p. (WSLG1297)
- Supreme Court Considering Whether Alabama Legislative Redistricting Map is an Unconstitutional Racial Gerrymander, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1131)
- Supreme Court Construes Congress' Silence To Mean Heightened Protection for Religious Accommodations in the Workplace, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1291)

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- Supreme Court Decides Case concerning Securities Act Section 11 Knowledge Requirement, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1248)
- Supreme Court Denies Cert in Not So “Elementary” Copyright Case, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1122)
- Supreme Court Denies Compensation Claim for Security Screening Time, by Jon O. Shimabukuro. 1 p. (WSLG1134)
- Supreme Court Denies Petitions for Review of Same-Sex Marriage Decisions, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1088)
- Supreme Court: Disparate-Impact Claims Are Permissible Under the Fair Housing Act, Subject to Certain Limitations, by Jody Feder and David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1313)
- Supreme Court Drops from Docket Case concerning Securities Act’s Limitation of Actions Time Period, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1093)
- Supreme Court Grants Cert. on ECOA Case Testing Whether a Loan Guarantor Is Protected from Discrimination Based on Marital Status, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1237)
- Supreme Court Grants Cert to Settle Art. III Standing Question Involving Consumer Protection Law, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1256)
- Supreme Court Grants Review of Short Sale Case Returned to State Court, by Michael V. Seitzinger. 1 p. (WSLG1340)
- Supreme Court Hears Oral Argument in Federal Whistleblower Case, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1115)
- Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments in Pregnancy Discrimination Case, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1138)
- Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on State Same-Sex Marriage Bans, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1251)
- Supreme Court Issues Decision in Federal Whistleblower Case, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1181)
- Supreme Court Issues Rare Unanimous Opinion in Religious Freedom Case, by Cynthia Brown. 1 p. (WSLG1285)
- Supreme Court Looks at Death Penalty Lethal Injection Protocols Again, by Charles Doyle. 1 p. (WSLG1169)
- Supreme Court Overturns Wannabe Rapper’s Facebook Prosecution On Mens Rea Grounds, by Richard M. Thompson II. 1 p. (WSLG1286)
- Supreme Court Rejects Unlimited Government Access to Hotel Records, by Richard M. Thompson II. 1 p. (WSLG1310)
- Supreme Court Remains Quiet On The Second Amendment For Now..., by Vivian S. Chu. 1 p. (WSLG1308)
- Supreme Court: Rescinding a Mortgage Is a Simple Matter When Lender Does Not Provide Required Disclosures, by M. Maureen Murphy. 1 p. (WSLG1159)
- Supreme Court Rules: Incorrect Standards Used in Upholding Alabama Redistricting Map Against Claim of Unconstitutional Racial Gerrymandering, by L. Paige Whitaker. 1 p. (WSLG1230)
- Supreme Court Rules on Interpretive Rule Procedural Requirements, by Daniel T. Shedd. 1 p. (WSLG1192)
- Supreme Court Ruling Affects the Future of Whistleblower Suits Against Government Contractors, by David Epstein. 1 p. (WSLG1280)
- Supreme Court Sends Pregnancy Discrimination Case Back to Lower Court, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1210)
- Supreme Court Set to Review Fair Housing Case: Third Time’s the Charm?, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1151)

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Supreme Court Strikes Down Arizona Sign Ordinance, by William A. Hornbeck. 1 p. (WSLG1406)

Supreme Court Strikes Down Maryland's Income Tax Scheme, by Erika K. Lunder. 1 p. (WSLG1264)

Supreme Court Strikes Down State Same-Sex Marriage Bans, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1316)

Supreme Court Term in Review, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2564)

Supreme Court Term in Review, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2565)

Supreme Court to Consider State Same-Sex Marriage Bans, by Rodney M. Perry. 1 p. (WSLG1150)

Supreme Court to Revisit University of Texas Affirmative Action Case, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1337)

Supreme Court Upholds Premium Tax Credits in Federal Exchanges, by Erika K. Lunder. 1 p. (WSLG1314)

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"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility:" Supreme Court Affirms Lower Court in Spiderman Case, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1336)

"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility:" Supreme Court Grants Cert in Spiderman case, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1163)

Would Congressional Inaction on Initiative 71 be Consistent with International Treaty Commitments?, by Todd Garvey. 1 p. (WSLG1116)

Yates v. U.S.: Plain Text v. Context, by Larry M. Eig. 1 p. (WSLG1196)

MISCELLANEOUS

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Speech Resources: Fact Sheet, by Sundee Mahendra. 4 p. (R43977)

Commemorative Coins: An Overview, by Jacob R. Straus. 1 p. (IF10262)

Congress.gov New Features, by Kelly J. Yuzawa. (WPE2570)

Congress.gov New Features, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2408)

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Congress.gov New Features, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2409)	CRS Services Briefing, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2360)
Congress.gov New Features, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2471)	CRS Services Briefing, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2361)
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CRS Services Briefing, by Megan D. Meehan. (WPE2372)	CRS Services Briefing, by Suzanne Salgado. (WPE2599)
CRS Services Briefing, by Megan D. Meehan. (WPE2521)	District/State Staff Institute: April 2015, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2470)
CRS Services Briefing, by Megan D. Meehan. (WPE2598)	District/State Staff Institute: April 2015, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2488)
CRS Services Briefing, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2286)	District/State Staff Institute: December 2014, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2368)
CRS Services Briefing, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2288)	District/State Staff Institute: December 2014, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2369)
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The Evolving Congress, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2542)

The Evolving Congress: A Committee Print Prepared for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, by Robert Jay Dilger, Walter J. Oleszek, Michael L. Koempel, R. Sam Garrett, Jacob R. Straus, Megan S. Lynch, Jessica Tollestrup, Clinton T. Brass, Wendy Ginsberg, Judy Schneider, Edward V. Murphy, N. Eric Weiss, William L. Painter, Colleen J. Shogan, Sean Lowry, Bruce R. Lindsay, Francis X. McCarthy, Eugene Boyd, Natalie Keegan, Molly F. Sherlock, Jane G. Gravelle, John R. Haskell, Kevin J. Coleman, Jennifer E. Manning, Ida A. Brudnick, Jennifer D. Williams, Matthew E. Glassman and Mark J. Oleszek. (CP10000)

Federal Legislative History Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2405)

Federal Legislative History Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2469)

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Federal Statutory Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2532)

Federal Statutory Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2584)

Finding Quotes for Speeches: Fact Sheet, by Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch. 2 p. (R44200)

Graduation: Fact Sheet, by Sundeep Mahendra. 4 p. (R44021)

Grants and Federal Assistance, by Merete F. Gerli. (GRANTS)

Grants and Federal Domestic Assistance: CRS Web Page, by Luis A. DeCastro and Merete F. Gerli. (MEMBER-GRANTS-PAGE)

Grants Work in a Congressional Office, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2391)

Grants Work in a Congressional Office, by S. Stephen Dagadakis. (WPE2410)

Grants Work in a Congressional Office: How CRS Can Help, by Natalie Keegan and Merete F. Gerli. (WPE2660)

HALPS Fall 2014 - Session 4: The Amending Process: A Case Study from the Congressional Record, by Judy Schneider. (WPE2359)

HALPS Fall 2014 - Session 5: Committee Procedures, by Mark J. Oleszek. (WPE2364)

HALPS Fall 2014 - Session 6: The Other Chamber, by Michael L. Koempel. (WPE2366)

HALPS Fall 2014 - Session 7: Resolving Differences Between The Chambers, by Walter J. Oleszek. (WPE2370)

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SALPS Spring 2015 - Session 2: Amending Measures, by Elizabeth Rybicki. (WPE2498)

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SALPS Spring 2015 - Session 6: The Other Chamber, by Megan S. Lynch. (WPE2501)

SALPS Spring 2015 - Session 7: Resolving Differences Between the Chambers, by Walter J. Oleszek. (WPE2502)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Administration Initiative to Update the 1986 Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology, by Tadlock Cowan. 1 p. (IN10311)

The America COMPETES Acts: An Overview, by Heather B. Gonzalez. 24 p. (R43880)

Anthem Data Breach: How Safe Is Health Information Under HIPAA?, by C. Stephen Redhead. 1 p. (IN10235)

ARPA-E and the FY2016 Budget Request, by Heather B. Gonzalez. 4 p. (R43986)

Baby You Can Drive My Car (Unless It Drives Itself): Spectrum Needs of Self-Driving Vehicles, by Linda K. Moore. 1 p. (IN10168)

The Battle over Cable Boxes, by Dana A. Scherer. 1 p. (IN10180)

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- Broadband Opportunity Council Report and Recommendations, by Lennard G. Kruger. 3 p. (IN10367)
- Broadcast TV Agreements, Competition, and Media Diversity, by Dana A. Scherer. 2 p. (IF10284)
- Bye-bye Bare-Bones Patent Complaints - Supreme Court Eliminates Form 18, by Emily M. Lanza. 1 p. (WSLG1304)
- CFPB Sues Telecom Giant, Sprint, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1153)
- The Changing Federal STEM Education Effort, by Heather B. Gonzalez. 1 p. (IF10229)
- Charter-Time Warner Cable-Bright House Networks Mergers: Overview and Issues, by Dana A. Scherer. 26 p. (R44122)
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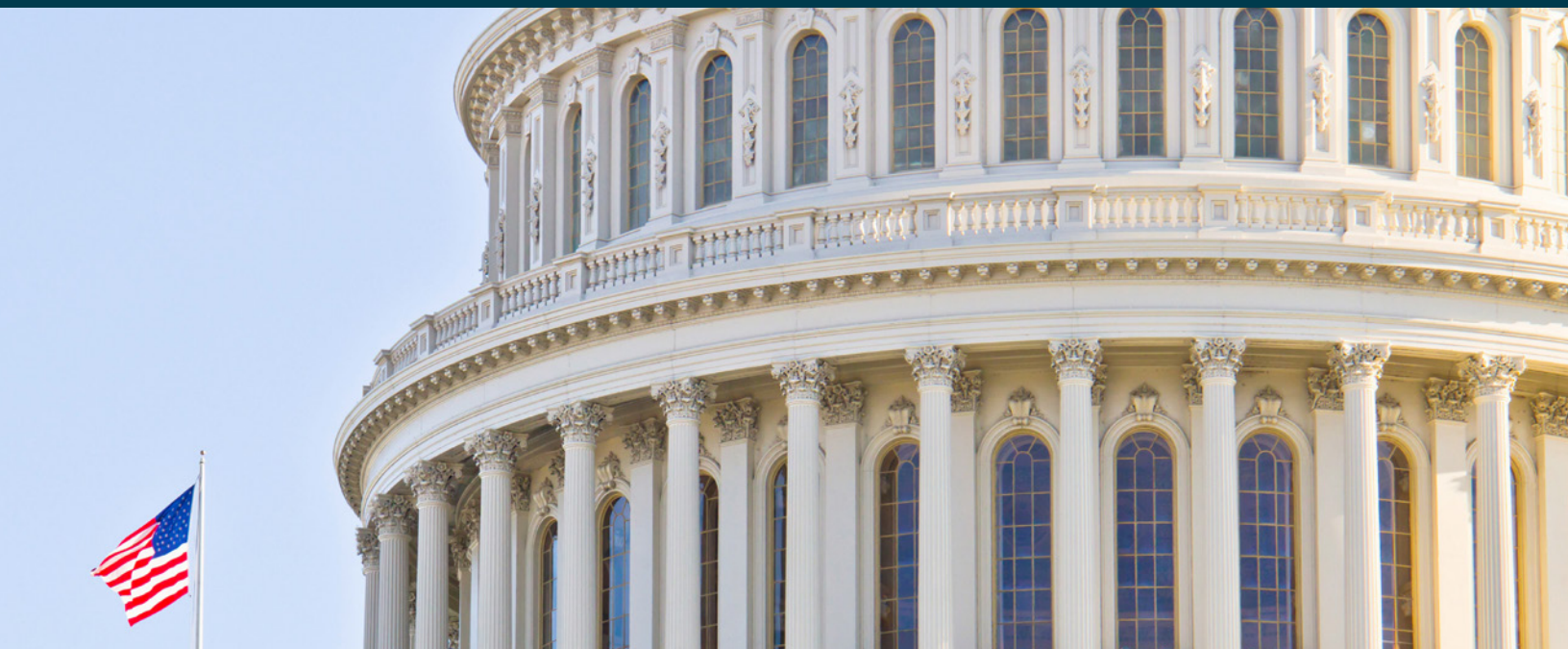
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